

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

MINUTES

December 13-14, 2023

The December 13, 2023, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Jon Rolph at 1:22 p.m. The meeting was held in the Board Office located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Lane moved that the minutes of the November 15, 2023, meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Flanders introduced the Interim Vice President of Workforce Development, Rita Johnson.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Rolph reported the Regents moved to electronic agendas this month, and those who choose to do so can now use their devices to access agenda items. He welcomed President Linton back in person and wished everyone a happy holiday.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders reported he attended a meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures. They discussed access, affordability, and cost drivers of higher education. He was pleased to report the Education Deans are addressing literacy and are on target to develop two specific courses and an assessment to ensure teachers are better prepared to teach literacy. President Flanders also reported that there is movement on the systemwide general education framework, which is getting closer to full implementation. Regent Winter inquired about the Legislature's approach to higher education. President Flanders articulated the Legislature's positivity and solution-focused approach to higher education.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Elodie Jones, FHSU Faculty Senate President, presented the report for the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents on behalf of Dr. Don Von Bergen. She reported the Faculty Senate Presidents

are working on their nominations for the Faculty of the Year Award, which will be awarded in the spring. She expressed the Council's gratitude for allowing them to serve on the Vice President of Academic Affairs search team. Dr. Jones reported that Dr. Von Bergen attended the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities conference. He mentioned the most discussed topic was AI and wondered how faculty can work together on topics such as policies and vendors.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Students' Advisory Committee report was presented by Caleb Stout. Mr. Stout reported the Committee reflected on its year in review and stated the Committee members are looking forward to having breakfast with the Regents Thursday morning.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Lane presented the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee report. Regent Lane thanked Provost Tabor for his leadership and invited him to comment on his departure. Provost Tabor expressed gratitude for his time working at KSU and within the system as he moves to retirement. Regent Lane reported that BAASC approved the final AY 2022 performance reports. These are the last reports utilizing the old system. She stated the new agreements require a plan from each institution to implement the following five initiatives: Math Pathways, Corequisite Math Support Models, Corequisite English Support Models, Professional Development for faculty and staff, and Academic Degree Maps. The Committee received updates from ESU, FHSU, and KSU on implementation of their National Institute for Student Success Playbooks. Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director of Academic Affairs, gave the Qualified Admissions Report. She stated no university exceeded the 10% cap on admitting students with exceptions. Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided a review of the new performance agreements, which will be on a future Board agenda. Regent Lane stated universities shared good news from their campuses. Regent Lane reported she attended the Education Commission of the States Commissioner's meeting and shared some insights from that meeting. Chair Rolph congratulated Provost Tabor on his retirement.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson presented the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee report. Jennifer Armour, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, provided the Committee with information about the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) state funding and how institutions are advised about grant opportunities. The Committee received a presentation on the state universities' space utilization data and how it will be used to inform campus planning in a new modeling tool to be rolled out in spring 2024. Director of Facilities Chad Bristow discussed the Board's capital renewal initiative and maintenance assessment. The Committee received information from Dennis Strait and Joe Bilotta, both consulting architects, and Cindy Farrier, Director of Data, Research and Planning, whose team helped with the merging of human resource, finance, and facilities data. Regent Benson reported that out of 5,400 universities and colleges across the nation, only three have no deferred maintenance backlog. He stated bringing together state and university monies, across a system of universities, as is being done in Kansas, is worthy of highlight. Students, faculty, and staff are feeling the positive effects of the additional maintenance work and improvements that have been done or are soon to be underway. He stated

that year two of the maintenance assessment is currently underway, that partnership with the Governor and Legislature has proven key to launching the initiative, and that the Committee is hopeful that state funding in year three will be forthcoming. The Committee also received an overview of the capital budgeting process, the status of the university campus master plans, and a historical timeline and financial status update on the Educational Building Fund.

GOVERNANCE

Chair Rolph reported that the Governance Committee received an update from General Counsel John Yeary, on the draft policy to standardize the notice requirements for non-reappointment of state university non-tenure track employees. Feedback is being reviewed with a final proposed policy amendment expected in January. The Committee reviewed and approved staff recommendations to streamline and improve the Board member conflict of interest disclosure form and the annual process for submission. KSU presented its campus safety and security report. Chair Rolph stated the Committee approved KSU's request for a new Restricted Access entrance for the Hoeflin Stone House on campus in accordance with Board policy.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Ice moved to approve the consent agenda, and in doing so highlighted the Regents Distinguished Professor, Dr. Juergen Richt, whose continued service as such at KSU is an item on the consent agenda. Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Academic Affairs

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE - KU

The University of Kansas received approval to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science in Professional Performance. This program will total 120 semester credit hours with courses being available in online and hybrid formats. On campus courses will be taught at the KU Edward campus. The university's estimated cost of the program for the first three years is as follows: year one - \$251,000, year two - \$260,675, and year three - \$332,050. The program will be fully funded through Johnson County Education Research Triangle funds and tuition revenue. No state funds will be utilized.

REGENTS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR - KSU

Kansas State University requested that Dr. Juergen Richt continue to serve as a Regents Distinguished Professor. Board policy establishes the criteria for nomination as a Distinguished Professor as well as the reporting requirements. A comprehensive performance evaluation of the professor takes place every five years, and the evaluation includes evidence of the professor's professional activities and contributions to the State's economic development.

*Fiscal Affairs and Audit*EPSCOR PROPOSALS

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Program Review Committee's recommendation for the below EPSCoR proposals was approved:

- For the request submitted by Dr. Doug Wright, Professor and Principal Investigator for the Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE), the committee recommended funding \$62,500 to support bridging grant proposals to increase their competitiveness for NIH funding. This award provides a 59.5:1 leverage for state funds (federal:state).
- For the request submitted by Dr. Heather Desaire, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Kansas, the committee recommended funding \$71,038.83 in support of the proposal. This award provides a 32.1:1 leverage for state funds (federal:state), and it is contingent upon receipt of an award from the National Institute of Health's Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) program. If this federal award is received beyond the proposed start date of the project, December 1, 2023, the committee's award will be prorated based on the actual project start month. If this proposal is not federally awarded, an additional \$62,500 will be awarded to K-INBRE to fulfill its entire request. The remaining \$8,538.83 would be encumbered to be awarded in FY 2025.

WSU GROUND LEASE TO WSIA AND WSIA GROUND SUBLEASE TO CONNECTED NATION INTERNET EXCHANGE POINTS, LLC FOR NEW IXP FACILITY

WSU received authorization to lease land to WSIA and for WSIA to sublease the land to Connected Nation Internet Exchange Points, LLC for the new IXP facility. The ground lease structure will provide for the private development of a facility that will provide a carrier-neutral Internet Exchange Point (IXP) on a currently vacant lot located on approximately 1.3 acres of ground on the northwest corner of East 21st Street and Fountain Avenue, directly across from WSU's Eck Stadium. The land location of the project is described as Lot 1 Block H Cloudridge Addition. WSU will lease the land to WSIA, which will sub-lease it to Connected Nation Internet Exchange Points, LLC (CNIXP). The ground lease and sublease will have a 40-year lifespan. CNIXP will pay \$1.00 to WSIA annually under the ground sublease. WSIA will pay \$1.00 to WSU annually under the ground lease and, as it does for other ground leases at WSU, will serve as the primary landlord for all lease-related oversight and issues. Neither WSU nor WSIA will be contracting to design, build, finance, operate, or maintain the improvements constructed on the leased ground. The ground lease and sublease will be conditioned on CNIXP receiving and demonstrating sufficient financing for the project, finalizing the ground sub-sublease with WSIA, and receiving all necessary licensing, code, and zoning approvals. As sublessee, CNIXP will design, build, finance, operate, and maintain an approximately 2,000-square-foot facility that meets the construction

and design approvals of WSU, including adjacent flat-surface parking and landscaping. The University anticipates that development could start as early as late January 2024.

AMEND FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR RENOVATIONS TO WILLARD HALL, KING HALL, AND CHEMISTRY/BIOCHEMISTRY BUILDING - KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend its FY 2024 capital improvement project plan and to accept the program statement for renovations to Willard Hall, King Hall, and the Chemistry/Biochemistry Building. Approximately 7,500 square feet will be renovated in Willard Hall to accommodate teaching labs, outreach space, sample storage, work areas, graduate teaching assistant offices, faculty offices, and faculty research labs. Former chemistry labs within the Chemistry/Biochemistry Building will be repurposed for geology research labs and an existing shared instrumentation lab will house two pieces of geology equipment. Approximately 3,000 square feet in King Hall will be renovated for use by the Geology Department. Renovations in all three buildings will include HVAC, plumbing, electrical, lighting, and fire protection upgrades. The renovations are scheduled to begin in December 2024 and be completed in Fall 2025. The estimated cost is \$5.2 million, to be funded from a combination of capital renewal, philanthropic, and university funds.

GROUND LEASE TO SALINA AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR NEW K-AIRES FACILITY - KSU

Kansas State University received authorization for the Board of Regents, on Kansas State University's behalf, to lease land to the Salina Airport Authority (SAA) for a new Kansas Advanced Immersive Research for Emerging Systems (K-AIRES) Center. Pure Imagination Labs seeks to develop the K-AIRES Center, the nation's first spatial computing education, research and development center, on a vacant tract of land owned by the Board on behalf of Kansas State University in Salina, Kansas. The lease involves approximately 1.8 acres on the southeast corner of Scanlan Avenue and Beechcraft Road, adjacent to the University's aviation center. The ground lease will have a 40-year term with the Authority's obligation under the lease being to procure and maintain the K-AIRES Center Facility. The Authority will issue bonds to meet that obligation. The Kansas Department of Commerce has received an initial allocation of \$2,950,000 to be provided to SAA for the purposes of the project. SAA will issue leasehold revenue bonds to finance the construction of the K-AIRES Center Facility. SAA will design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the facility throughout the ground lease term. The total estimated cost for the 58,451-square-foot K-AIRES Center is \$38,266,750. This estimated cost includes architectural and engineering design fees, bond issue costs, and costs to construct.

REAL PROPERTY EXCHANGE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION - KU

The University of Kansas received approval to finalize an exchange of property with the KU Endowment Association. In September 2021, the Board approved the university's request to seek legislative authority to exchange three University of Kansas properties for one parcel of KUEA property. Legislative authorization was contained in Section 170(a)-(d) of 2022 House Substitute for Senate Bill 267. In accordance with the requirements of that Legislation, the Office of the Attorney General has reviewed and approved the warranty deeds, and the Board approved finalizing the conveyance of the properties. The three KU parcels have a total appraised value of \$1,850,000: Wesley Building property (0.50 acres) appraised value \$965,000; Bob Billings and Crestline Drive, Site of Lawrence Transit Hub (3.082 acres), appraised value \$525,000; and 21st Street and Iowa Street (0.918 acre) appraised value \$360,000. The KUEA property has an appraised value of \$1,852,722: Westbrooke Street Property (28.416 acres).

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Academic Affairs

NEW SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER COURSES

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, reported that the Transfer and Articulation Council reviewed the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups Report and approved outcomes for four additional courses to be recognized for transfer across the Kansas Board of Regents System.

- ✓ BUS2040 Business Communications
- ✓ CHM1040 Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry and Lab
- ✓ EDU2030 Technology for Teachers
- ✓ HSC2020 Elementary School PE and Health

Regent Lane moved to approve; Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

FY 2025 HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE RATE ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY STATE UNIVERSITIES

Regent Benson reported this is the second reading of the FY 2025 housing and food service rate adjustment proposals. Since the first reading, adjustments and recommendations were made with extensive discussion on methodology and university considerations on rate increases. Affordability and access are ensured by constant benchmarking against peer institutions around the state and nationally. Elaine Frisbie, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reported the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee reviewed local context as reported in the Institution for Policy and Social Research's annual publication of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development data on Kansas county-level rental rates. The Board thanked the staff for their work. Regent Benson moved to approve, and Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

(FY 2025 Housing and Food Rates filed with Official Minutes)

REPORT ON UNIVERSITIES' FACILITIES CONDITION AND SPACE UTILIZATION, AND PROJECTED MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES - SYSTEM

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, presented the 2023 state university facilities report. Chair Rolph thanked Director Bristow for stewarding this process. Director Bristow stated the Board is setting the standard in a collaborative and supportive method of improving facilities. Board policy directs each state university to report on space utilization efficiency, facilities condition, and maintenance assessment projected expenditures in October of each year. With this being the first year of data collection, the Board will receive a summary as well as the universities' data.

This report exceeds the requirement in K.S.A. 76-7,103 that information be provided to the Legislature on deferred and annual maintenance, building inventory, and space utilization every other year, as this information is now updated annually. Director Bristow extended his appreciation to university staff, Board staff, and consultant teams who laid the groundwork for the system. President Flanders inquired about universities disseminating this information to their communities to highlight the savings to Kansas taxpayers. Director Bristow stated this is an ongoing effort noting the information is posted on the KBOR website. Regent Ice highlighted the progress made on facility conditions. Regent Parasker stated she was surprised by the low percentage of classrooms in the space utilization and inquired about a shared space model. Director Bristow stated many universities are developing projects on utilizing shared workspace. Regent Winter stated the assessment for the upcoming year of \$41.6 million is aspirational based on the system's other spending needs. The full report can be found on the Board's website.

(PowerPoint filed with Official Minutes)

ALLOCATION OF FY 2025 EDUCATION BUILDING FUND APPROPRIATION - SYSTEM

Director Bristow presented the proposed allocation of the FY 2025 Educational Building Fund Appropriation for rehabilitation and repair projects to mission-critical facilities. The distribution amounts to the universities are based on a standard formula developed in 2007 that is largely based upon the square footage of each university's mission-critical buildings as a proportion to the systemwide total, with a minor adjustment factor for the complexity of given facilities. President Flanders noted there are incentives for shrinking campus footprints. Director Bristow stated it is no longer a requirement to allocate the EBF in this proportionate formula, but the Board has chosen to continue it at no penalty for the universities that take facilities from their mission-critical portfolios offline. He noted the capital renewal initiative funds are also distributed according to the same formula. Regent Benson moved to approve, and Regent Winter seconded. The motion carried. The following allocations were approved:

**Allocation of Educational Building Fund for Rehabilitation and Repair Projects
For EBF-Eligible Buildings Only
FY 2025 - \$62,000,000**

| | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>Allocation</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| University of Kansas | 26.87 | \$16,659,000 |
| University of Kansas Medical Center | 11.25 | 6,975,000 |
| Kansas State University | 29.90 | 18,537,000 |
| Wichita State University | 10.98 | 6,808,000 |
| Emporia State University | 6.04 | 3,745,000 |
| Pittsburg State University | 7.38 | 4,576,000 |
| Fort Hays State University | <u>7.58</u> | <u>4,700,000</u> |
| Total | 100.00 | \$62,000,000 |

BREAK

At 2:17 p.m., Chair Rolph called for a break. At 2:36 p.m., the meeting resumed.

AMEND THE FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR NIAR HUB FOR
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND RESEARCH - WSU

Director Bristow introduced WSU's request to amend the FY 2024 capital improvement plan for NIAR Hub for Advanced Manufacturing and Research. President Muma presented the amendment to increase the budget and revise the project name for the NIAR Hub for Advanced Manufacturing and Research (formerly NIAR Technology and Innovation Building) on the Innovation Campus at Wichita State University from \$60.62 million to \$69 million. He stated the project scope and budget increase was approved at the May 2023 Board meeting. Updated project cost estimates following design development reflect additional increases in construction costs resulting in a total project cost of \$69 million. President Muma noted the project scope and program have not changed since the last approval. He reported the building project has been developed as part of a larger federal EDA grant received by WSU. The project will be funded with EDA grant funds supplemented with additional funds from NIAR, revenue bonds, and additional grant funds. A standard design-bid-build project delivery method will be used for this project with completion anticipated in Fall 2025. Regent Parasker congratulated WSU on the grant and its work in smart manufacturing technology. She also noted the importance of leveraging this with the upcoming U.S. Department of Commerce CHIPS initiative. Regent Parasker moved to approve. Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

(PowerPoint filed with Official Minutes)

REQUEST TO ACCEPT REAL PROPERTY FROM CITY OF WICHITA BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

President Muma presented KU and WSU's request to accept real property from the City of Wichita. He stated the University of Kansas, including the Medical Center and its School of Medicine -Wichita (KU), and Wichita State University (WSU) have received federal grant funds through the Kansas Department of Commerce that KU and WSU must use to develop and build a health sciences center. The Center, which will be called the Wichita Biomedical Campus (WBC), will allow KU and WSU to centralize certain healthcare education, research, and clinical activities

as well as several health-related programs of Wichita State University's Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology. President Muma presented that WBC will be located on a parcel of land totaling approximately 1.8 acres in Wichita. The City of Wichita, which owns the property, has agreed to convey the property to KU and WSU jointly by warranty deed at no cost. The legal description of the parcel of property is as follows:

Parcel 1:

Lots 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21, on Lawrence Avenue, now Broadway, in English's Addition, sometimes known as N.A. English's Addition, to the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas,

TOGETHER WITH,

Parcel 2:

Lots 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, and 43, on Lawrence Avenue, now Broadway Avenue, in N.A. English's Addition to the city of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas,

TOGETHER WITH,

Parcel 3:

Lots 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and the North 10 feet of Lot 26 on Topeka Avenue, in N.A. English's Addition to the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas,

TOGETHER WITH,

That portion of to be vacated Alley being described as follows:

All of the west half of the platted Alley lying south of the north line of Lots 13 and 14 on William Street; and lying north of the south line of Lots 43 and 44 on English Street, and lying east of Lawrence Avenue now Broadway Avenue; and lying west of Topeka Avenue, N.A. English's addition to the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, TOGETHER WITH, That portion of the east half of said platted Alley adjoining Lots 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26, EXCEPT the south 15 feet of said Lot 26 thereof.

Chair Rolph stated President Muma presented at the Greater Wichita Partnerships meeting last week and noted the Project represents the greatest historical capital investment in downtown Wichita. Regent Rolph moved to approve the request; Regent Ice seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN UPDATE - KU AND KUMC

Provost Bickelmeyer presented an update to KU's campus master plan. She stated the University's goal for the next ten years is to become a resilient and sustainable institution for the benefit of future generations. She stated the campus master plan is in line with their campus strategic plan focused on institutional priorities. AJ Woodworth, KUMC's Director of Facilities Management Projects, presented KUMC's campus master plan for 2023-2050. He reported on existing conditions including campus building and land ownership, deferred maintenance, and future

master planning goals. Regent Dicus asked if there is a way to go back in the budget to ask for more than \$10 million for the demolition fund, noting the savings associated with taking older buildings offline. President Flanders said that could be done. However, he noted that demolition projects must be staged, and since the funding is appropriated annually, he would want to work with institutions to understand what could be accomplished in terms of demolition within a year. Director Woodworth noted expenses associated with demolishing a building include relocating two existing buildings and renovating those spaces. Regent Dicus mentioned planning in advance for these additional expenses. Chancellor Girod mentioned the importance of maximizing the buildings the University is going to keep and to relocate to them. The Chancellor said that is a time-consuming process that costs more than the demolition. Regent Dicus stated \$10 million between six institutions does not go very far. President Flanders stated the Board, during the upcoming year, could look at the expenses of the full project including the swing space.

(PowerPoint filed with Official Minutes)

NON-BUDGETARY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Adam York, Director of Government Relations, presented the non-budgetary legislative proposals, which are listed below. The Board received a first read on the non-budgetary legislative items at the November 2023 meeting.

- Create a public university research fund aligned with the state's strategic economic interests to grow the workforce in key industries, increase the competitiveness of existing Kansas companies, and recruit new companies into Kansas.
- Clarify eligibility for all AO-K students to receive the \$500 program stipend authorized by the 2023 Legislature.
- Amend the Nursing Service Scholarship Program (K.S.A. 74-3291 through 74-3299) to expand access for nursing students in Kansas.
- Amend service scholarships to unify and equalize interest rates and adjust the accrual date of interest incurred for service scholarship non-compliance.
- Allow for third-party investments into 529 college savings accounts as well as other adjustments to provide more college investment pathways.
- FHSU is seeking approval to exchange property located on the Hays campus in Ellis County with the FHSU Foundation, for Foundation property also located in Ellis County. FHSU proposes to exchange for Foundation property approximately 320 acres of land used primarily for agriculture purposes (mostly crop production) by the University Farm and Department of Agriculture to be used to alleviate the housing shortage in Hays. The exact value of the properties will be determined once a qualified appraisal is completed.
- Kansas State University is seeking approval to sell the K-State Housing and Dining Services Honors House in Riley County, Kansas.
- Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus is seeking to change its name to Kansas State University – Salina and to also clean up language in several statutes to align with the mission of the Salina campus.
- University of Kansas is seeking approval to increase funding for the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center for operations.

Director York reported other legislative items to be aware of:

- Clarify eligibility and conform to federal definitions under the Hero's Scholarship Act. The Kansas Hero's Scholarship Act (K.S.A. 75-4364) establishes a waiver for eligible individuals to attend a Kansas public postsecondary educational institution without payment of tuition and required fees in the pursuit of an undergraduate degree. The waiver does not cover other costs of attendance, such as living expenses or required books or materials.
- In light of the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling on race-based admissions policies, the Board of Regents will ask the Legislature to consider whether changes to the program are warranted. A review of other race-based statutory language contained in scholarship program legislation may also be warranted.

Regent Parasker asked for clarification on the Kansas strategic research fund. Director York stated this fund is geared toward retaining and recruiting faculty in high-demand industries.

Regent Ice extended his appreciation for how these items build on the Board's previous discussions. Regent Lane asked about the strategy regarding the Ethnic Minority Scholarship program. Director York said the strategy would be to make the Legislature aware of the United States Supreme Court's recent decision on race-based college admissions. Chair Rolph clarified the scholarship program is statutory, that the Board will work with the Legislature if it elects to change the statute, and that the Board is not advocating for a change. Regent Winter moved to approve the non-budgetary legislature proposals, and the motion was seconded by Regent Ice. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO THE JOHNSON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH TRIANGLE AUTHORITY

General Counsel, John Yeary, stated the Johnson County Educational Research Triangle Authority has a seven-member board of directors. It consists of one member appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the Board of Regents, one member appointed by the Johnson County Commission, one member appointed by the Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees, two members appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Kansas (one to represent the Medical Center and one to represent the Edwards Campus), and one member appointed by the President of Kansas State University. Statute requires that the Board's appointee be an elected official of Johnson County. General Counsel Yeary stated the Board's current appointee, the Mayor of Lenexa, is not running for that office again. General Counsel Yeary presented the Board's proposed appointee as Michelle J. Hepperly, Mayor of the City of Fairway. Regent Benson moved to approve, and Regent Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried. City of Fairway, Kansas Mayor Melanie J. Hepperly is appointed to serve a four-year term on the Authority Board beginning on January 1, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rolph called the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Jon Rolph, Chair