

# MINUTES

## Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee May 14, 2025

The May 14, 2025, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee was called to order by Chair Benson at 10:15 a.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:      Regent Blake Benson, Chair                      Regent Jon Rolph  
                                     Regent John Dicus                                      Regent Wint Winter

### **Approve minutes of April 16, 2025 committee meeting**

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2025 meeting. Following a second by Regent Dicus, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Review Board Agenda Items under Fiscal Affairs**

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration at KBOR, shared that JCERT budgets discussed at the April meeting were approved by the JCERT authority and are now slotted for Board approval at the full Board meeting.

### **Presentations by Chief Financial Officers and Student Government Representatives**

#### **Pittsburg State University**

Doug Ball, Chief Financial Officer at Pittsburg State University, shared that PSU is in search of alternate funding sources to compensate for the loss of student success funding, which has dropped from \$1 million to approximately \$600,000. Key investments for the coming year include Great Gorilla scholarships, a student success center, salary increases, healthcare costs, recruiting tools, Gorilla Rising operations, and cybersecurity. Tuition and fees would increase by 2.4% for undergraduates and 0.5% for graduate students. PSU is proposing increases in fees for the College of Technology in a continued move toward a \$500 fee that reflects the value of degrees and the high cost of delivery. The College of Business is proposing a new \$300 per semester fee, to be phased in over two years, that reflects the high value to students.

Hannah Eckstein, PSU's SGA President, shared information about the proposed increases for the student center, student recreation, and student activity fees. She emphasized that students requested these fee increases to improve the experience at PSU.

#### **Emporia State University**

Angela Wolgram, Chief Financial Officer at Emporia State University, introduced Azwad Arif, ASG president, and then gave an overview of the annual process for setting tuition and fee rates. Before the school year begins, student leaders from the seven line-item organizations can request that fees for their organization be raised, kept flat, or decreased. The fiscal affairs committee then meet with the leaders to review expense reports and future budgeting projections. The committee then vote on the proposal, and if passed, it goes to the Student Senate. If successful, the treasurer communicates the change to the tuition and fees board. This year, the only line-item increase proposal was a 0.3% increase for the ESU Bulletin to cover equipment.

Next, Ms. Wolgram reviewed the tuition and fees committee proposals, which included a 3% tuition increase. The committee requests to combine the \$11 technology fee with the \$30 distance education electronic media fee. The new fee will be a combined rate of \$15, which will simplify billing for students and maintain the current level of funding to support IT infrastructure and software.

The requested 0.3% increase for the ESU Bulletin was removed from the final decision, as the committee concluded that those funds could be obtained through foundation funding.

Next, Ms. Wolgram gave an overview of course fees, which have been simplified into a per-credit-hour college fee equivalent to current funding needs. She shared that enrollment is expected to stabilize in Fall 2025 and that ESU will have a balanced budget for FY 2026 and will not be relying on reserve funds to cover a deficit.

### **Fort Hays State University**

Wesley Wintch, Chief Financial Officer at Fort Hays State University, gave an overview of the Budget Committee process at FHSU. The proposed tuition rates include increases ranging from \$6.27 to \$26.70 per credit hour, depending on student classification.

Grace McCord, legislative affairs director at FHSU, shared the proposed fees for AY 2025-26. This included increases for ten entities including Athletics, Student Health and Wellness, and the Student Union. It also included a reallocation of the Memorial Union Bond. She noted that these increases were passed in a student referendum with very little opposition from student voters.

Next, Mr. Wintch discussed the market challenges facing FHSU, including inflationary pressures, salary and wage pressures, shifts in the enrollment market, regulatory uncertainty, and geopolitical concerns. Enrollment is currently stable and is anticipated to remain so.

### **Wichita State University**

David Miller, Chief Financial Officer at Wichita State University, discussed the challenges that the University has been navigating, including decreased enrollment among international students, state and federal funding, employee compensation, and the pending House settlement impacting NCAA athletics. He shared that WSU proposes a 3.5% tuition increase with no proposed increases for mandatory or college course/program fees. To increase compensation, WSU will match the 2.4% compensation pool with tuition funds.

Kylee Hower, SGA President for Wichita State University, shared that various budget cuts have been made to programs receiving funds through student service fees. Regent Rolph asked if any areas would receive increases in funding. Ms. Hower responded that there were no increases in funding for these programs. Mr. Miller added that the budget cuts were made to account for the decrease in enrollment for international students.

### **Kansas State University**

Ethan Erickson, Vice President for Administration and Finance at Kansas State University, shared the following proposed tuition increases:

- 3.5% increase for the Manhattan and Olathe Campuses; and
- \$5 per credit hour increase for the College of Arts and Sciences;
- The Salina Campus requests an 8% undergraduate rate increase, a 5.2% rate increase for resident graduates, and a 4.5% increase for non-resident graduate students.
- He noted that no fee increases are requested.

Mr. Erickson shared that KSU is projecting a 2% increase in student enrollment for Fall 2025. KSU has kept its tuition rate increase below the HEPI-adjusted rate. Targeted investment areas include faculty and staff compensation, student success, digital accessibility, facilities/operating, and classroom renovations.

### **University of Kansas**

Jeff DeWitt, Chief Financial Officer at the University of Kansas, discussed the challenges facing KU, including inflation, funding reductions for research, infrastructure, and fiscal pressure in college athletics. KU is proposing a 3% tuition increase for undergraduates, non-resident graduates, and resident medical students, as well as a 5%

increase for resident graduate, law, and pharmacy. These increases will fund student success, research, facilities, and staff recruitment/retention. Course fees will also be added to the School of Architecture, Education, Music, and Nursing to cover the cost of instruction.

Megan Stopperan, Chair of Finance Council and Student Fee Review at the University of Kansas, shared that KU is proposing a 2% fee increase to support campus transportation, mental health, and other student engagement services. She added that this increase passed overwhelmingly in the fee committee, and with over 2/3 majority in the finance committee and student assembly.

#### **Other Committee Business**

Vice President Frisbie shared that she would request that the Board act on approval of the distribution of the additional \$2.5 million in funding provided for need-based aid for public universities.

#### **Adjournment**

Chair Benson adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.