



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOARD SELECTS PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

18 Individuals Selected For Search Process

(TOPEKA) – Today the Board of Regents selected the 18 individuals who will guide the search process for the next president of Pittsburg State University (PSU).

The search committee, comprised of 18 individuals representing PSU constituencies such as faculty, students, administration, staff, alumni/foundation, the Pittsburg community, and the Board of Regents, will be led by former-Regent Bill Docking of Arkansas City. Docking served on the Board of Regents from 1995-2005, and as the Board's Chair from 1998-2000.

“The Board has selected an excellent search committee for this important process,” said Docking. “I look forward to working with this talented group of individuals in the coming months to identify top-notch candidates from around the nation.”

Over the next several months, the search committee will work closely with a yet-to-be-determined executive search firm to identify and recruit candidates to replace current PSU President Tom Bryant who, after nine years of service as President and a total of 38 years of service to PSU, will retire at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. During today's special meeting, the Board charged the search committee to identify three to five presidential candidates whose names will ultimately be forwarded to the Board for final consideration.

“This search process represents an exciting opportunity for the university, the Pittsburg community, and the state as a whole,” noted Donna Shank, Chair of the Board of Regents. “The Board is fortunate to have such a qualified and diverse group of people involved in this process. We appreciate their willingness to serve and look forward to receiving the committee's ultimate recommendations.”

The six search committee members representing PSU faculty, staff, and administration are: Dr. Ananda Jayawardhana, Associate Professor of Mathematics; Dr. Mark Johnson, Faculty Senate President and Professor, Technology Management; Dr. Barbara McClaskey, Professor, Nursing; Dr. Tim Thomas, PSU-KNEA President and Professor, Mechanical Engineering Technology; Tracey Mussa, Classified Senate President and Administrative Specialist, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education; and Lynette Olson, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The two members representing PSU students are: Eddie Penner, Student Government Association President; and Dana Pugh, Honors College Association President.

The four members representing alumni/foundation are: Joe Levens, Jr., Past President, PSU Alumni Association, and Vice President, Martin K. Eby Construction Co., Inc., Wichita; Beccy Yocham, President, PSU Alumni Association, and Deputy City Attorney, City of Lenexa; Cathy Albright, President, PSU Foundation Board of Trustees, Former-Owner, Stillwater Equipment Company, Stillwater, Oklahoma, Lifetime Member, PSU Foundation Presidents Society, and Member, PSU Foundation Heritage Society; and Dick Coleman, Vice President, Miller's Professional Imaging, Pittsburg, PSU Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient, and Lifetime Member, PSU Foundation Presidents Society.

The three members representing the Pittsburg community are: Gene Bicknell, Southeast Kansas businessman, PSU benefactor, and Senior Trustee, PSU Foundation Board; Ed McKechnie, Former-State Representative, Chief Commercial Officer, Watco Companies, Inc., Pittsburg, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Kansas Bioscience Authority Board; and Mark Werner, President, Citizens Bank, N.A., Pittsburg, and former-mayor and former-city commissioner of Pittsburg.

The two members representing the Board of Regents are: Dick Hedges of Fort Scott, Regent; and Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO.

Additional PSU presidential search details can be found on the Board's website at the following link: <http://www.kansasregents.org/psusearch.html>.

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About the Kansas Board of Regents:

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (six state universities, a municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The Board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas, and administers the Kan-ed network, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries.

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