



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

1000 SW JACKSON • SUITE 520 • TOPEKA, KS 66612-1368

TELEPHONE – 785-296-3421
FAX – 785-296-0983
www.kansasregents.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2008

BOARD APPOINTS KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Former-Regent Nelson Galle of Manhattan Selected to Lead Search Process

(TOPEKA) – Last week the Board of Regents appointed Former-Regent Nelson Galle of Manhattan to chair the committee responsible for conducting the search for the next president of Kansas State University (KSU).

“Nelson will do a tremendous job,” said Christine Downey-Schmidt, Chair of the Board of Regents. “Nelson’s previous presidential search experience, his business and human relations background, his service on the Board, as well as his ties to the Manhattan community and to K-State, make him an obvious choice to lead this important process.”

Galle, a Manhattan resident and KSU alumnus, was appointed to the Board in 2003 by Governor Kathleen Sebelius and served until 2007. He served as the Board’s Vice Chair from 2005-2006 and as the Board’s Chair from 2006-2007.

“I’m honored to take on this highly important responsibility,” said Galle. “The decisions and the recommendations the search committee will make will not only have a significant impact on K-State’s future but also on the Manhattan community, the state’s higher education system as whole, and the state of Kansas in general. It’s of the utmost importance that the search committee employs an open, inclusive, and thorough approach to seek out top-notch talent from across the nation in order to find a leader who will serve K-State for years to come.”

Galle will lead a search committee comprised of approximately 15 individuals representing key university and community constituencies such as faculty, staff, alumni/foundation, students, the Board of Regents, the Manhattan community, and the broader Kansas community.

On May 12, KSU President Jon Wefald announced that he would retire at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year after what will be 23 years of service to the state of Kansas. Upon Wefald’s announcement, Board Chair Downey-Schmidt issued the following statement:

“On behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents, I offer my sincerest gratitude to Jon Wefald for his 22 years of unparalleled leadership as the President of Kansas State University. Jon, through his tremendous vision and unrivaled determination, transformed K-State into the world class educational institution that it is today. Under Jon’s leadership, K-State has enjoyed increased

student enrollments, dramatic increases in private giving and research funding, has attracted world-renowned researchers and scholars, and has achieved an unequaled success rate in the number of prestigious national scholarships awarded to its students. We are thankful that Jon will continue to serve as K-State's president through the end of the next academic year. In the meantime, the Board will soon formalize the process to conduct a national search for a new president. It's safe to say that Kansas is a better place today because of Jon Wefald."

###

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 36 public higher education institutions (six state universities, a municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and ten technical institutions). 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.

For more information, contact Kip Peterson at (785) 296-3421 or at kipeterson@ksbor.org.

Visit the Kansas Board of Regents online at www.kansasregents.org.