



Council of Presidents (COPS)

Kansas Board of Regents

Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, Kansas,
66612

2026-03-11 11:00 - 11:30 CDT

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IV. Report from Council of Student Affairs Officers

Presenters: Taylor (TK) Kriley, Ed.D

V. Report from Council of Government Relations Officers

Presenters: Greg Schneider, Ph.D

VI. Report from Council for Research and Economic Development (CRED)

Presenters: Greg Scheider, Ph.D

VII. Report from Council of Chief Business Officers

Presenters: Angela Wolgram

VIII. Other Matters

IX. Adjournment

Council of Presidents Meeting Minutes

At 11:04 Interim President Taylor Kriley called the Council of Presidents February 11, 2026, meeting to order at the Curtis State Office Building (CSOB), 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, KS 66612.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Taylor Kriley, Emporia State University, Chair Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University
 Thomas Newsom, Pittsburg State University Rick Muma, Wichita State University
 Doug Girod, University of Kansas Rich Linton, Kansas State University

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Muma moved that the minutes of the January 14, 2026, meeting be approved. Following the second of President Newsom, the motion carried.

Act on Student Health Insurance Benefits and Premium Rates for Plan Year 2026-2027: Becky Pottebaum

- Committees met January 21 and presented rates of 3.21% and .23%. Were asked if we could go lower, they came back with the same rates but added telehealth services. If passed, this will go to Fiscal Affairs and the Board today.
- President Newsom moved to approve. President Muma seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS: Brent Thomas, Ph.D.

No report.

- BS in Financial Forensics was left on the COPS agenda from last month. Noted that this passed at the January meeting.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICERS: Sheila Markowitz

- There was a presentation from CDI regarding services around civic engagement and options for the system.
- Most of the meeting was spent preparing for roundtables with Regents this afternoon.
- Thank you to Presidents and the Board for the support to students and the work we do supporting student engagement for students to be successful in their careers and in society.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICERS & RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CRED): Greg Schneider, Ph.D.

- The budget discussions are going on right now in the House and Senate, working their two bills before they go to the floor next week.
- The House is cutting the budget for higher education more significantly than the Senate at this moment with about \$11 million in cuts, along with a transfer of a building from K-State to the Department of Administration (an accounting cut of about \$10 million). The Senate has increased higher ed spending to about \$20-30 million. Significant additions include \$5 million for KU (Alzheimer's), K-State (nuclear reactor) and WSU (hanger).
- Regional stabilization money was removed altogether (\$6.8 million for ESU and PSU) and \$7.4 million for FHSU. The Higher ed budget committee put \$5 million into operating money for each institution (amounting to a \$1.8 million cut for ESU and PSU and a \$2.4 million cut for FHSU). There was no love for this money once the decision was made to make it permanent. The Special Committee on the state budget discussed it for at least 30 minutes in November so the writing was on the wall for this as ongoing money. The common theme for Adam Turk and the Higher Education Budget committee is whether money which was meant for one-time should be ongoing. The answer to this is no.

- KBOR budget –major provisos and discussion (finished this morning)
- Other bills:
 - HB 2428—DEI mandates—being discussed and possible vote today in House Education
 - HB 2523—Steve Howe’s affiliation bill—Not moving forward.
 - HB 2746—omitting property right in tenure (Susan Humphries)—not scheduled yet but clean and simple bill that tenure is not a property right in Kansas. This would remove property rights for those already tenured as well as any from this point forward.
 - HB 2661—Pat Proctor bill on investments in higher education by foreign adversaries. Sent to House education; not scheduled yet for a hearing
 - SB 496—free speech and association training and materials for higher education in consultation with AG’s office—in Senate Education
 - HB 2743—House Education bill removing DEI from teacher preparation courses and from literacy programs
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REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICERS: Taylor Kriley, Ed.D.

Handout provided by Angela Wolgram.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am by Chancellor Girod, seconded by President Linton.