

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Kansas Board of Regents
MINUTES
February 12, 2025

The Kansas Board of Regents Governance Committee met on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Chair Ice called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Proper notice was given according to the law.

Members Present: Carl Ice, Chair
 Jon Rolph
 Blake Benson
 Diana Mendoza

MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Committee's January 15, 2025 meeting. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SIAC

Jeff DeWitt, Chair of the Student Insurance Advisory Committee, presented the student health insurance renewal proposal for Plan Year 2025-2026. The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from each of the state universities and the University of Kansas medical center and is chaired by a Council of Business Officers member. UnitedHealthcare – Student Resources is the insurance carrier.

Chair DeWitt noted that the plans have a small risk pool, which contributed to an increase in premiums during the Covid-19 pandemic. Last year, the plan experience was better, and premiums were held flat with no reduction in benefits. The plan experience continues to be favorable. For the upcoming plan year, a six percent across-the-board premium reduction is recommended.

The Committee inquired about references in the agenda materials to this being the maximum premium decrease. Chair DeWitt explained that the six percent reduction was the most prudent figure to avoid the risk of a large premium increase in subsequent plan years.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the Plan Year 2025-2026 renewal proposal. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FACULTY OF THE YEAR

General Counsel John Yeary presented a first reading of proposed updates to the Board's faculty of the year award policy. The proposal would add an award for non-tenure-track faculty and an award for university staff. For the staff award, nominations will be received from the university CEOs, but on the same timeline as nominations for the faculty awards received from the university faculty senates. For the faculty award, the proposal expands the criteria from excellence in teaching, research, and service, to also include other university responsibilities, such as clinical duties. Chair Ice noted that the proposal appeared consistent with feedback the Regents have received about the award.

Matthew Muether, Wichita State University Faculty Senate President, stated that the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents endorses the revisions to the faculty component of the awards. He also informed the Committee that many of the university faculty senates have begun the process of soliciting nominations for the non-tenure-track faculty award. Although the addition of the staff award did not grow from a Council of Faculty Senate Presidents recommendation, the Council also supports that addition.

The Committee discussed whether a second reading was necessary. While substantial feedback has been received, the Committee will adhere to its usual process and will receive a second reading at next month's meeting.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

Julie Murray, University of Kansas Chief of Staff, introduced University of Kansas Police Chief Nelson Mosley, University of Kansas Medical Center Police Chief Brad Deichler, and University of Kansas Clery Coordinator Jason Goodman.

Chief Mosley provided the report for KU's Lawrence campus. Chief Mosley noted that, in 2024, the department received 3,600 calls for service, made 4,142 requested extra patrols, and provided 74 safety escorts. Chief Mosley updated the committee on major campus events; projects, such as the department's efforts to apprehend suspects in a rash of bicycle and e-scooter thefts, and to conduct building sweeps in response to reports of unauthorized individuals in campus buildings; the department's participation in exercises and education programs it conducted for the campus community; and technological changes, such as updating the department's dispatch console systems and getting radio encryption in place. Chief Mosley noted that the department is exploring license plate readers, cameras, and artificial intelligence to assist with proactive policing.

KUMC Police Chief Brad Deichler noted that KUMC leans toward a traditional law enforcement approach, noting that the KUMC's campus is impacted by the property crimes and violent crimes in the campus' surrounding metropolitan area. Chief Deichler noted his department interacts frequently with law enforcement agencies from the federal government, Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas. He shared that the department conducted six tabletop exercises; is trying to upgrade its Clery program; is working on a new radio system; and has expanded camera coverage, with license plate readers coming.

KUMC Police Captain Jeff Cowdrey reviewed the most common calls the department receives. KUMC Police Captain Michael Oude Alink discussed training opportunities for department personnel, noting that 95 percent had participated in crisis intervention training. In response to questions from the Committee about staffing levels, Chief Deichler noted that the department currently has about 45 staff. Its goal is 50. However, he noted desire to work in the field is down, and it is difficult to find applicants who can clear the required background checks.

Clery Coordinator Jason Goodman discussed KU's revised Clery compliance procedures. Work has been done on the structure of the University's security reports and the review process to ensure compliance. In addition, new timely warning processes and Clery trainings have been implemented. KU is planning a week-long Clery training that will be open to all institutions.

Chair Ice thanked each of the presenters.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:53 a.m., Chair Ice adjourned the meeting.