

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Kansas Board of Regents
MINUTES
June 11, 2025

The Kansas Board of Regents Governance Committee met on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Chair Ice called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Carl Ice, Chair	Blake Benson
	Jon Rolph	Diana Mendoza

MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Committee's May 14, 2025 meeting. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REVIEW WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY POLICIES REGARDING CAMPUS GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

Wichita State University General Counsel Stacia Boden reviewed updates to WSU's policies regarding posters and the use of campus grounds. In a process spanning approximately two years, a committee made up of a cross-section of campus stakeholders reviewed and crafted updates to the policies. In doing so, the committee endeavored to ensure alignment with university process and compliance with First Amendment precedent. The committee also reviewed similar policies of Kansas institutions and other institutions across the country.

Although the review was thorough, much of the updates comprise modernizing departments and titles and moving from paper to electronic forms. In the use of campus grounds policy, the policy prohibits camping and obstructing buildings, and addresses material distribution, noise levels, and the University's right to require additional security at an event. The focus is on event time, place, manner, and scheduling. The policy adds a restriction that events must occur between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

General Counsel Boden stated that from her office's perspective, the primary focus was compliance. She assured the committee with the strongest confidence that the updated policies comply with state and federal law and Board policy.

Regent Ice observed that WSU conducted a thoughtful review. Regent Benson asked if WSU encountered any trends or new issues when reviewing other institutions' policies. General Counsel Boden said that encampments are a current topic. She stated that when drafting these policies, there is a balance between the need to protect free speech and the need to prevent harm to others and disruption of services.

Regent Rolph asked how WSU selected 7 p.m. as the event cut-off. General Counsel Boden stated that the prevailing factor was the recommendation of the University Police Department based on shifts and the availability resources.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 a.m., Regent Rolph moved that the Governance Committee recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject of the executive session would be CEO compensation, and the purpose was to protect the privacy of the individual employees involved. The session would include the Committee members, General Counsel John Yearly, and Director for Finance and Administration Becky Pottebaum. The session would last approximately 30 minutes, and the Committee would return to open session at 9:45 a.m. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Committee recessed into executive session.

At 9:45 a.m., the Committee returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session for 20 minutes to 10:05 a.m. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 10:05 a.m., the Committee returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session for five minutes to 10:10 a.m. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 10:10 a.m., the Committee returned to open session and adjourned.