

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Kansas Board of Regents
MINUTES
April 16, 2025

The Kansas Board of Regents Governance Committee met on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Chair Ice called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m. Proper notice was given according to the law.

Members Present: Carl Ice, Chair
Jon Rolph
Blake Benson
Diana Mendoza (participating via Zoom)

MINUTES

Regent Benson moved to approve the minutes of the Committee's March 12, 2025 meeting. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RECEIVE INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE MERGER APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

General Counsel John Yeary reported that President Flanders was recently notified two community colleges were exploring a possible merger. There is a statutory process for consolidation of community college districts. If the district boards of trustees both vote to approve a merger, the boards will enter into a written agreement addressing statutory elements. The agreement must be approved by the Board of Regents. If the electors of the combining districts approve the merger, the Board would issue an order certifying the new, combined community college district.

Regent Benson inquired whether details regarding issues such as curriculum, facilities, and athletics would need to be settled before a merger. General Counsel Yeary reviewed the statutorily required elements for merger agreements. Chair Ice noted that the local boards would have a higher need to address these issues and pointed out that they might naturally work them out notwithstanding the statutory floor for the content of merger agreements. President Flanders agreed alignment would happen locally, but experience with affiliations shows it may take time to work out details such as curriculum.

DISCUSS BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND ACT ON ACTUAL OR APPARENT CONFLICTS

General Counsel John Yeary stated that newly appointed Regent Kathy Wolfe Moore has submitted her conflict-of-interest disclosure form pursuant to Board policy. Regent Wolfe Moore reported no conflicts or potential conflicts. Board staff recommend directing Regent Wolfe Moore to remain cognizant of her ongoing duty to report potential conflicts as they may arise.

Regent Rolph moved to adopt the recommendation for the full Board's consideration. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACT ON IT SECURITY STANDARDS FOR STATE UNIVERSITIES

Angela Neria, Pittsburg State University's Associate Vice President of Technology, informed the Committee that the Board's IT security council recommends adopting the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 2.0 framework as the security standard for state universities. The NIST standards provide guidelines to help institutions with cybersecurity. Key areas include identifying risks, protecting the institutions, responding to threats, recovery, and tailoring to institutional risks. An ongoing systemwide audit to identify risks is based on these standards. The recommendation will likely be updated as NIST updates the framework.

Chair Ice asked if there are other standards. Associate Vice President Neria said that the NIST standards are the most progressive and widely accepted, and that they are ahead of where the universities are now.

Regent Benson moved to adopt the recommendation. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

Pittsburg State University Police Chief Stu Hite provided the university's annual campus safety and security report. Chief Hite noted that since the last report, his department completed the process of relocating to a new space on campus. The department is also partnering with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation on its new facility on campus, where the department will house its dispatch center operations. The department is working with the planning team on needs for the space. The department may also explore the possibility of adding a university police substation for Block 22, but there are staffing and jurisdictional issues.

Chief Hite reported that PSU had doubled the number of AED defibrillators on campus and now has Narcan in every building. Regent Ice asked if Narcan has a shelf life. Chief Hite said that it does, and officers check on this as part of their patrols. He said that the batteries and adhesive pads for the defibrillators also need to be kept up to date.

Chief Hite reported that his department faces recruitment and retention challenges. He noted it is difficult to find qualified applicants, a problem that is impacted by salary and benefits. He noted he and President Shipp had favorably discussed increased educational benefits for department staff.

Chair Ice thanked Chief Hite for the report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

At 8:48 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 was CEO compensation, and the purpose was to protect the privacy of the individual Board employees involved. The session included the Committee members, General Counsel John Yeary, Director for Finance and Administration Becky Pottebaum, and Representatives of CBIZ Benefits and Insurance Services, Inc. The session would last approximately 60 minutes, and the Committee would return to open session at 9:50 a.m. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Committee recessed into executive session.

At 9:50 a.m., the Committee returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session to 10:10 a.m. Regent Benson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

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