

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Kansas Board of Regents
MINUTES
November 20, 2024

The Kansas Board of Regents Governance Committee met on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Regent 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

Member Absent: Diana Mendoza

MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the September 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Regent Benson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND CEO TO EXECUTE BOARD CONTRACT

Gage Rohlf, Associate General Counsel, presented a contract with the University of Kansas for design-based implementation research related to the Blueprint for Literacy. Under the contract, the Board would reimburse KU up to \$616,000 in budgeted expenses through September 30, 2027. President Flanders added that Chief of Staff Kelly Oliver would provide further details. President Flanders noted that the KU Center for Research has significant expertise in this area. Kelly Oliver confirmed that the KUCR specializes in working directly with schools and analyzing relevant data, which makes them a strong fit for the project.

Chair Ice inquired about the selection process for the research center, asking if a bidding process had been conducted. Chief of Staff Oliver explained that while a formal bidding process was not used, the Advisory Committee chose KU based on its expertise. Chair Ice raised concerns about ensuring that other institutions had a chance to participate. Chief of Staff Oliver clarified that while all public universities were involved in the Blueprint for Literacy in some capacity, the Advisory Committee had consulted with various universities, including KU.

Regent Benson asked how other universities are involved in the program. Chief of Staff Oliver explained that the Advisory Committee includes members from research and regional universities, as well as other literacy experts. Additionally, each university has submitted proposals to become a designated "Center of Excellence" in literacy, with Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, expected to present the final recommended plan for establishment of the regional centers for excellence in reading at the next Board meeting. At this point, it is anticipated that each public university will be designated as a center.

Regent Rolph moved to grant President Flanders authority to execute the contract. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ANNUAL CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY REPORT (KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY)

Ronnie Grice, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Public Safety at Kansas State University, provided an update on campus security initiatives. He highlighted the university's progress in implementing a comprehensive campus-wide camera system, consolidating 25 to 30 separate systems. Through a competitive RFP process, 111 cameras have been installed across the Manhattan and Salina campuses. Additionally, a new card access system is being integrated into all major renovations and new buildings. The College of Education served as the beta site and is fully operational, with the College of Business and eight other buildings next in line.

Grice reported that KSU has had no weapons violations or automated security measure (ASM) incidents, though future ASM protocols may be needed for women's basketball games. A new position will manage the card and camera systems, streamlining oversight. ASM is required when attendance exceeds 5,000 for events, aligning with protocols at other institutions like KU. Efforts are ongoing to unify and modernize access control systems campus-wide, improving efficiency and safety.

Justin Frederick, Title IX Coordinator, discussed recent Title IX initiatives. K-State hosted a KBOR Title IX training, updating participants on pending legislation and reviewing policies to comply with 2020 regulations. Increased outreach and training have led to a rise in Title IX reports, particularly related to stalking on social media and sexual assault. Four live hearings were conducted by KSU during the reporting period, with outcomes of responsibility and non-responsibility determined by the Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings. More affected individuals were connected to support resources than in previous years, with expanded educational efforts targeting student groups like ROTC, the marching band, and Greek organizations.

President Flanders praised these efforts and offered support for future changes. Grice also noted a successful active violence tabletop exercise at Dole Hall, involving key stakeholders and identifying areas for improvement.

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

John Yeary, General Counsel, presented an update regarding a potential conflict of interest disclosed by Regent Johnston. Regent Johnston reported that she serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, a federally qualified health center and nonprofit healthcare organization that receives federal funding under the Public Health Services Act. She has held this position since December 2023.

The Community Health Center provides student health services for Pittsburg State University, which is governed by the Board. After reviewing the situation, staff recommended that Regent Johnston recuse herself from participating in any Board discussions or decisions involving contracts or transactions between the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas and Pittsburg State University. Additionally, appropriate measures should be taken to manage any related issues that may arise.

Regent Benson moved to approve the staff recommendation. Regent Rolph seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

UPDATE ON LEADERSHIP COMPENSATION DISCUSSIONS AND TIMELINE PLANNING

Chair Ice provided an update on ongoing discussions about compensation for university leaders. He said an RFP to select an advisor has been published, and anticipated that conversations about selecting an advisor would begin shortly.

Regent Benson asked President Flanders about the timeline for these efforts. President Flanders confirmed that a timetable had been established and offered to share it. Chair Ice emphasized the importance of clear deadlines, suggesting that responsible parties might need firm guidance on when their plans must be finalized. President Flanders agreed, adding that it might be necessary to set a definitive timeline rather than asking how much time is needed. He noted that sometimes it's most effective to establish firm deadlines to drive action and ensure accountability.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:23 a.m., Chair Ice adjourned the meeting.