

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Kansas Board of Regents
MINUTES
March 12, 2025

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

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

MINUTES

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

RECEIVE SECOND READING OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARD POLICY

General Counsel John Yeary presented a second 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. One clarifying change was made to the proposal since the first reading: language was added specifying that each university CEO may nominate only one individual for the staff award.

Chair Ice reminded the Committee that, at last month's meeting, the Committee heard from faculty that they are anticipating this change and are prepared to implement it.

Regent Benson moved that the proposed changes be recommended to the full Board. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

Joe Bain, Fort Hays State University General Counsel, introduced FHSU Police Chief Terry Pierce and Title IX Coordinator Laurie Larrick. He noted that this is his fifth or sixth year participating in the annual reports, and that he feels good about the work being done over those years across the campus. He has observed collaboration among faculty, staff, and student government. He also believed that information technology efforts, including the Committee's work around enterprise risk management, have intensified the collaboration.

Chief Pierce reported that there have been no changes to FHSU's weapons policy, there are no significant Clery report items, and the university has not had any major security events. He discussed training sessions and tabletop exercises that the department either organized or participated in, such as active shooter training and a Texas A&M extension program. He also highlighted the ways in which the department facilitates communication, such as conducting safety walks and meetings with student groups.

Chair Ice inquired about takeaways from tabletop exercises, and Chief Pierce stated that partnership is critical, and that university personnel need to know what to expect when other public safety agencies arrive on campus. General Counsel Bain added that the relationships between student affairs professionals and the students are also critical. In response to an inquiry from Regent Mendoza, Chief Pierce clarified that active shooter training is available to all university faculty and staff, but is not necessarily required.

Laurie Larrick reported that FHSU had no formal Title IX hearings, and that usage of the informal resolution process was good. The University is working to implement the Stop Campus Hazing Act. A policy update is due in June and there will be training for staff, faculty, and students. Hazing will also be added to annual Title IX harassment and discrimination training. Ms. Larrick's office is also monitoring updates with the new administration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 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 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 30 minutes, and the Committee would return to open session at 9:51 a.m. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the Committee recessed into executive session.

At 9:51, the Committee returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session for five minutes to 9:56 a.m. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 9:57 a.m. the Committee returned to open session and Chair Ice adjourned the meeting.