

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
System Council of Chief Academic Officers
MINUTES
January 14, 2026

The January 14, 2026, meeting of the System Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Mickey McCloud at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka. *Proper notice was given according to law.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brandon Galm, Cloud County CC	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Mickey McCloud, JCCC	Susan Bon, PSU	Ashlie Jack (for Monica Lounsbery,) WSU
Brent Thomas, ESU	Luke Dowell, Seward CC	Lisa Kirmer, FHTC
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Jason Sharp (for Marc Malone,) Garden City CC	Rusty Monhollon, KBOR (<i>ex officio</i>)
Jesse Mendez, KSU		

Approve Minutes from December 17, 2025

Susan Bon moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2025, meeting. Brandon Galm proposed an amendment to reflect the consensus between the two-year and four-year sector regarding reduced-credit Baccalaureate degrees. Jill Arensdorf suggested a reference to a previous meeting be added for clarity. Brent Thomas proposed for the amendment to reflect the council’s intent to work “in the best interest of the state and students we serve.” Following the discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Systemwide Updates

TAAC Update

Jason Sharp shared that TAAC is currently reviewing recommendations for future KCOG courses. Review includes examining how frequently suggested courses are offered across the system and identifying courses that are due for review as part of the five-year rotation. He reminded attendees that the 2025 KCOG certification deadline for the five new courses is January 23, 2026. A reminder of how to certify these courses in KHEDS was recently emailed to CAOs. Jason also reminded the Council that institutions wishing to offer an existing systemwide transfer course that they have not previously offered must submit a new course approval form. The deadline for course approvals is March 1. Completed forms should be sent to Dr. Jennifer Bonds-Raacke.

Other Matters

Reduced Credit Baccalaureate Degree Update

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared that the workgroup will meet on Friday, January 16.

Chair Mickey McCloud asked if there had been any further discussion since the Policy Framework document had been sent out prior to the December meeting. Vice President Monhollon responded that

the framework document will be discussed at the January 16 meeting to begin developing the specifics of the policy.

Academic Affairs Updates

The Council thanked Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon in recognition of his final SCOCAO meeting before his retirement.

Adjournment

Luke Dowell moved to adjourn the meeting. Following a second by Jesse Mendez, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m.