

System Council of Chief Academic Officers (SCOCAO) Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mickey McCloud at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The meeting was held at the Board office, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 530, Topeka, Kansas. Proper notice was given according to the law.

Members Present:

Brandon Galm, Cloud County CC	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Mickey McCloud, JCCC	Susan Bon, PSU	Monica Lounsbury, WSU
Brent Thomas, ESU	Luke Dowell, Seward CC	Lisa Kirmer, FHTC
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Marc Malone, Garden City CC	Jennifer Bonds-Raacke, KBOR (<i>ex officio</i>)
Jesse Mendez, KSU		

Introductions

Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bonds-Raacke introduced Dr. W. Trey Hill as the new Director for Academic Affairs. Dr. Hill earned his Ph.D. from Kansas State University. He has previously served as a faculty member and department chair at Fort Hays State University as well as Vice Provost and Dean for Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

Approval of Minutes

Brandon Galm moved to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2026 meeting. Luke Dowell seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Systemwide Updates

TAAC Update

Marc Malone shared that TAAC has formed a SWAD subcommittee with representatives from two-year and four-year institutions, which will meet five times during the spring semester. The subcommittee was formed in response to TAAC's charge from BAASC to identify key issues and policy elements related to SWADs. Recommendations will first be brought to SCOCAO for comment and then to BAASC for consideration/approval as appropriate.

TAAC is also in the process of exploring potential new courses for the 2026 KCOG conference, narrowing down 22 suggested courses using a data set provided by Nathan Snyder. To further narrow down the list of courses, TAAC will consider which courses appear at the largest number and volume of institutions, as well as how courses have historically transferred through the system. The final list of new courses should be available by April for CAOs to submit preliminary courses in May and June.

Dr. Malone reminded CAOs that institutions wishing to offer a previously unoffered system-wide transfer course must submit a new course approval form to TAAC for review. The deadline for submission is March 1. Completed forms should be submitted to Vice President Bonds-Raacke.

Receive Report on Kansas Free Application Days for AY 2027

Mistie Knox highlighted the role of the DRP team and institutional staff in supporting data compilation over the past three years. A detailed report was provided at the November 19, 2025, BAASC meeting. These reports are accessible on kansasregents.gov. Now in its third year as a pilot, the Kansas Free Application Days initiative continues to engage multiple constituent groups, including the Apply Free Days Committee, which consists of

four year public institution admissions directors, a Student Advisory Committee representative, and invited provost participation; the Apply Kansas Steering Committee, which includes college admissions staff, a KACRAO representative, and school counselors from across the state; and leadership from the Kansas Independent College Association for feedback and collaboration. She extended appreciation to CAOs for their support of the admission staff throughout the Apply Free Days process. It is proposed AY 2027 will be the final year of the pilot. An additional year of data will be reported next Fall to inform future decisions.

Other Matters

ReUp Education Information

Scott Lomas, Chief Strategies Officer for ReUp Education, presented the organization's strategies assisting over 200 institutions re-enroll students with some college education but no degree. Addressing decreasing high school graduate numbers in Kansas, ReUP facilitates re-enrollment through data analysis, program inventorying, and re-enrollment management. ReUp Education has been in communication with many Kansas institutions and has had conversations with KBOR leadership, mostly at an informational stage. Metrics of success include superior persistence and graduation rates, demonstrating REUP's effective solutions amidst competitiveness from out-of-state institutions. There is no current specific action to be taken; the presentation focused on providing information and potential collaborations.

Barbara Bichelmeyer asked which metrics are used to determine success. Mr. Lomas responded that metrics of success for REUP include re-enrollment rates, persistence rates, and graduation rates. ReUp reports higher than average rates for these metrics.

AY 2026 Performance Report & Rubric

Director For Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond reviewed the AY 2026 Performance Report template, highlighting the five key components: Math Pathways, Corequisite Math support, Corequisite English support, Systemwide placement measures for Math Pathways and English Comp. I, and degree maps. Director Christy-Dangermond reviewed the information requested on the template and explained the evaluation rubric, which awards full, half, or no points based on the completeness of the information provided by institutions.

Brandon Galm asked if a draft of the report can be submitted ahead of time for feedback. Director Christy-Dangermond responded that reports are welcome to be submitted ahead of time for feedback.

Academic Affairs Updates

Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bonds-Raacke shared that future meeting topics include a one-year bridge agreement for the next performance agreement cycle beginning in AY 2027 as well as a discussion on Reduced-Credit Baccalaureate Degrees.

Announcements

Spring Break Dates

Director Sam Christy-Dangermond shared that state university academic calendars for AY 2029-2031 are due on February 27. As of 2020, the Board requires Spring Breaks for the state universities to be aligned and encourages community colleges and technical colleges to do the same. KBOR is also coordinating with KSDE for alignment with K-12. Proposed Spring Break dates are as follows:

AY 2029- March 11-17

AY 2030- March 17-23

AY 2031- March 16-22

Barbara Bichelmeyer noted that the University of Kansas is making an effort to set their academic calendar for three 16-week semesters with 8-week sub semesters, highlighting the need for the nursing program to follow this schedule.

Jesse Mendez shared that Kansas State University will hold a summit on March 3 for Community College CAOs regarding Reduced Credit Baccalaureate Degrees.

Adjournment

Marc Malone moved to adjourn the meeting. Jill Arensdorf seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.