

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS  
MINUTES  
JUNE 11, 2025**

The June 11, 2025, meeting of Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by chair Susan Bon at 8:47 a.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom, with an in-person option available in Suite 530, located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jesse Mendez, KSU	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Brent Thomas, ESU	Robert Klein, KUMC	Monica Lounsbery, WSU
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Susan Bon, PSU	Rusty Monhollon, KBOR ( <i>ex officio</i> )

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jesse Mendez moved that the minutes of the May 14, 2025, meeting be approved. Jill Arensdorf seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS UPDATE**

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Chair Rochelle Rowley provided an update on recent activities. The tuition assistance program remains under review, with additional data being collected. A further update will be shared once more information becomes available. Nearly all institutions have submitted nominations for the Faculty of the Year Award. In the upcoming academic year, the Council will review policies related to the International Baccalaureate program to assess whether the current scoring appropriately qualifies for college credit. The Council will also monitor any new legislation that may impact higher education.

**SECOND READING**

**BS IN STATISTICS – KU**

The proposal for the BS in Statistics has been tabled for the time being and is expected to be presented for a second reading in September.

**MS IN COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY - KU**

Barbara Bichelmeyer shared an overview of the proposal for an MS in Computational Biology. KU offers a doctoral program in Computational Biology. This doctoral program is the only program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with no corresponding master's program as a stair-step. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the MS in Computational Biology at KU. Jesse Mendez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER MATTERS**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES**

Director Sam Christy-Dangermond shared that there have been a few formatting changes to the Program Proposal template, which is available on the website. She requested that any future proposals be submitted using the updated template.

**DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES THAT UNIVERSITIES ARE CONSIDERING OR PLANNING TO PURSUE IN THE FUTURE**

Jill Arensdorf shared that FHSU would have a new Bachelor of Arts degree proposal in the fall. Susan Bon shared that PSU may also have a proposal in the fall regarding a new partnership with Wuhan Polytechnic University (WHPU).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Susan Bon provided a reminder that the next COCAO meeting will be held in September 2025 and that Brent Thomas will be the chair for AY26.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Barbara Bichelmeyer moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jesse Mendez seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.