

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
SYSTEM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS**

**VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, June 11, 2025
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

The System Council of Chief Academic Officers (SCOCAO) will meet virtually via Zoom. An in-person option will be available at the Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, Kansas, 66612.

- I. Call to Order** Mickey McCloud
 - A. Roll Call and Introductions
 - B. Approve Minutes from May 14, 2025 p. 3
- II. Systemwide Updates**
 - No Items
- III. Other Matters**
 - Academic Affairs Updates Academic Affairs Staff
- IV. Announcements**
 - A. Implementation Teams – Member Submission Request Due by June 2
 - B. Performance Agreements Listening Session – Follow-up Survey Due by June 23
 - C. KBOR Institutional OER Survey Due by June 27
 - D. Performance Reports Due by July 1 (schristy@ksbor.org)
 - E. Next SCOCAO Meeting – September 2025
- V. Adjournment**

SYSTEM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS

The System Council of Chief Academic Officers (SCOCAO), established in 2002, is composed of the six chief academic officers of the state universities, four chief academic officers selected by the nineteen community colleges, one chief academic officer selected by the six technical colleges, and the chief academic officer of Washburn University. The Board's Vice-President for Academic Affairs serves as an ex officio member. The Committee meets in person on the morning of the first day of the monthly Board meeting. Membership includes:

Brandon Galm	Cloud County CC
Mickey McCloud, Co-Chair	JCCC
Brent Thomas	ESU
Jill Arensdorf	FHSU
Jesse Mendez	KSU
Barbara Bichelmeyer	KU
Jason Sharp	Labette CC
Susan Bon, Co-Chair	PSU
Luke Dowell	Seward CCC
John Fritch	Washburn
Monica Lounsbery	WSU
Jennifer Seymour	WSU Tech
Rusty Monhollon	KBOR

System Council of Chief Academic Officers AY 2025 Meeting Schedule

<i>SCOCAO Academic Year 2024- 2025 Meeting Dates</i>		
Meeting Dates	Location (virtual or in-person)	Institutional Materials Due
September 18, 2024	Virtual	August 28, 2024
November 20, 2024	Kansas State University	October 30, 2024
December 18, 2024	Virtual	November 25, 2024
January 15, 2025	Virtual	December 24, 2024
February 12, 2025	Virtual	January 22, 2025
March 12, 2025	Virtual	February 19, 2025
April 16, 2025	Pittsburg State University	March 26, 2025
May 14, 2025	Virtual	April 23, 2025
June 11, 2025	Virtual	May 21, 2025

SCOCAO meets at 8:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
SYSTEM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS
MINUTES
MAY 14, 2025**

The May 14, 2025, meeting of the System Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Co-Chair Mickey McCloud at 8:34 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:

Brandon Galm, Cloud County CC
Mickey McCloud, JCCC
Brent Thomas, ESU
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU

Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU
Jason Sharp, Labette CC
Susan Bon, PSU
Luke Dowell, Seward CC

John Fritch, Washburn
Monica Lounsbury, WSU
Jennifer Seymour, WSU Tech
Rusty Monhollon, KBOR (*ex officio*)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Luke Dowell moved that the minutes of the March 12, 2025, meeting be approved. Barbara Bichelmeyer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

SYSTEMWIDE UPDATES

FIRST 15

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared a reminder that the work group was moving away from a no-cost model to a low-cost model. The work group met on May 2 to discuss this change. KBOR is working to collect data on current costs for concurrent enrollments. The work group will meet again in a few weeks.

OTHER MATTERS

NEXT CYCLE PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT DISCUSSION

Director for Academic Affairs Jenn Bonds-Raacke led a discussion focused on shaping the next cycle of Performance Agreements. The goal was to gather insights from Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) on what aspects of previous models were effective, what challenges they encountered, and how future agreements could better align with both statewide goals and institutional priorities. Director Bonds-Raacke began by outlining the statutory requirements tied to performance agreements and initiated the conversation by prompting reflections on past models.

Prior to Academic Year 2024, the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) used a metric-based approach, where institutions reported on indicators such as graduation and retention rates. Brandon Galm noted that a major challenge was the delay in data, which made it challenging to address issues in real time. Jill Arensdorf appreciated the flexibility to select some institution-specific metrics alongside those mandated by KBOR, and valued the opportunity to provide both qualitative and quantitative feedback. Barbara Bichelmeyer highlighted the clarity metrics provided in defining success, especially when institutions had input in their selection. However, Luke Dowell pointed out that the binary nature of evaluating benchmarks—either met or not met—could misrepresent institutional progress, particularly when year-to-year fluctuations occurred. Mickey McCloud emphasized the benefit of aligning metrics with institutional strategic plans but noted a lack of guidance on setting stretch goals. He indicated some campuses set stretch goals (sometimes resulting in incremental losses), while others remained focused on goals they were trying to maintain based on their institutional strategic plans.

Starting in AY24, KBOR transitioned to a project-based model. Barbara Bichelmeyer appreciated this shift, noting that projects played a critical role in advancing Board metrics and fostering institutional alignment. However, she and Dr. Arensdorf expressed concern over the tight timelines and the level of detail required, which created strain within institutions and limited faculty input. Jill Arensdorf suggested that a middle ground between metrics and projects might offer a more balanced approach to accountability.

Several CAOs offered suggestions for considering a potential hybrid model that combines elements of both approaches. Mickey McCloud recommended forecasting projects in advance to allow institutions time to align goals and initiatives. Susan Bon emphasized the need for more precise boundaries and more manageable timelines. Barbara Bichelmeyer supported a balanced model that accounts for institutional size, program diversity, and faculty engagement. Brandon Galm added that while professional development sessions and Executive Implementation Team meetings helped unify direction, the implementation often felt improvised rather than well-planned.

The conversation also explored how performance agreements could foster both institutional improvement and innovation while maintaining accountability. Mickey McCloud proposed incorporating “innovation lab” elements that allow institutions to report on emerging initiatives and future-focused strategies. Barbara Bichelmeyer agreed, advocating for flexibility and the ability to adjust goals over time without penalizing failure. Jill Arensdorf echoed this sentiment, calling for more adaptability in the process. Susan Bon noted that recent innovations, such as those in associate degree programs, were not always captured by existing metrics. Luke Dowell stressed the importance of aligning funding decisions with innovation-focused metrics.

Vice President Monhollon and Co-chair McCloud agreed to continue the discussion at the June meeting, with plans to extend it into the fall. The aim is to implement changes within the next year. Director Bonds-Raacke will distribute questions to the group before the next meeting to support the ongoing dialogue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-chair Mickey McCloud shared that the 2025 KCOG Preliminary course submissions were due on May 12, and the next SCOCOA meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Luke Dowell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Susan Bon seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.