

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2025**

Regent Alysia Johnston called the December 17, 2025, Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. The meeting was held in the Board Office located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka. *Proper notice was given according to law.*

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regent Alysia Johnston, Chair
 Regent Diana Mendoza

Discussion

Approve New Systemwide Transfer Courses

Director for Academic Affairs Dr. Jennifer Bonds-Raacke recapped that the annual KCOG conference was held on October 10, 2025, with over 500 faculty members in attendance. TAAC has reviewed the reports from this conference and recommends that the following five newly developed courses be recognized by the KBOR system for transfer:

- ART1060 CERAMICS I
- CSC1040 DATA STRUCTURES
- ENG 2040 WORLD LITERATURE
- MUS1040 AURAL SKILLS I
- MUS1050 AURAL SKILLS II

KBOR staff also recommends approval of these courses to take effect in Summer 2026. If approved, the total number of courses in systemwide transfer will increase from 126 to 131.

The Committee members present would recommend that the new system-wide transfer courses be brought forward to the full board for discussion this afternoon.

Remove MAT0990 Intermediate Algebra from Systemwide Transfer Courses

Director Bonds-Raacke shared that policy was updated in May 2023 to specify that course content from Intermediate Algebra is not college-level and may not be applied toward degrees beginning Fall 2026. The mathematics discipline group, TAAC, and KBOR staff support the recommendation to remove this course from systemwide transfer. If approved, along with the addition of the five aforementioned new courses, the total number of courses in systemwide transfer will be 130.

The Committee members present would recommend this item be brought forward to the full board for discussion this afternoon.

KSU Program Review 2025 Follow-up

Dr. Jesse Mendez, Provost for Kansas State University, began the presentation by sharing that KSU has been working deliberately on administrative efficiencies. A task force has provided recommendations around academic innovation and the NextGen strategic plan has aggressive student and learner goals. Several colleges within the university will be internally reviewing their structures and considering options for improved efficiencies.

KSU is analyzing the structural efficiency in each department through various metrics, including but not limited to faculty FTEs. Departments that do not meet a minimum threshold will be considered for merging. A previous merger of seven different departments into the College of Human and Health Sciences resulted in an overall savings of \$400,000.

Dr. Margaret Mohr-Schroeder, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Innovation at KSU, added that KSU has 120 total master's and doctoral degree programs, 20 of which are experiencing low enrollment (12 or less for master's programs and 7 or less for doctoral programs.)

KSU has focused on improving graduate enrollment through a program-specific graduate student recruitment team, digital advertising, targeted webinars, scholarship programs, and increasing pay for graduate teaching and research assistants. KSU has established a working group and engaged a consultant to work on policies for competency-based education. KSU plans to share new policies for competency-based education with the Board for approval in May.

Private Postsecondary Report

Director for Academic Affairs Crystal Puderbaugh highlighted that the Board has regulatory authority over private and out-of-state institutions operating in Kansas under the Kansas Private and Out-Of-State Postsecondary Education Act. Independent institutions are exempt from this act.

Institutions seeking approval will submit an application and pay a fee, subject to annual renewal. For FY 2024, there were a total of 1,785 approved programs. Student enrollment has remained steady, with the majority of enrollment being in health-related programs. Ninety-five percent of program completions for FY 2024 were at the certificate/diploma level.

Qualified Admissions Report

Director for Academic Affairs Samantha Christy-Dangermond shared that up to 10% of students admitted in a given category may be admitted by exception. Students are admitted by exception if they do not meet the minimum requirements for admission. None of the state universities exceeded this limit, the highest being 8.9% for non-resident transfer admits at one state university. Given the low percentages of students denied admission, and the fact that students may attend community or technical colleges and apply as transfer students after completing 24 transferable hours, this information does not show that access to higher education for Kansas students is an issue. KBOR Staff will submit tables one through three of the report, starting on page 11 of the agenda, to the legislature in January, as required by state statute.

Academic Affairs Updates

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared that the workgroup for the reduced-credit bachelor's degrees met on December 8. The workgroup emphasized the need for transferability and preserving the value of a traditional bachelor's degree. They suggested classifying these programs as a "Workforce Specialist" degrees rather than bachelor's degrees. There was also discussion around implementing a pilot program for these degrees. The committee is working with the Docking Institute at FHSU to conduct a statewide survey of Kansas businesses to measure their level of support.

VP Monhollon also shared that following his retirement on January 30, Dr. Jennifer Bonds-Raacke will assume the role of Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Chair Johnston emphasized the need for data regarding the demand and salary differentials for reduced-credit bachelor's programs. She expressed support for a pilot program. She highlighted that the Board has requested policy before moving forward.

Adjournment

Chair Johnston reminded attendees that the BAASC meeting, scheduled for January 6, 2025, has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held in-person on January 14, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.