



Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO)

Kansas Board of Regents

Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, Kansas,
66612

2026-02-11 09:00 - 10:00 CST

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I. Call To Order

A. Roll Call & Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes

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III. Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update

Presenters: Rochelle Rowley, ESU

IV. Other Matters

A. Discuss Opportunities (new degree programs, partnerships, strategic initiatives, etc.) that Universities are Considering or Planning to Pursue in the Future

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment

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

The January 14, 2026, meeting of the Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Brent Thomas at 8:48 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:

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

Approval of Minutes

Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2025, meeting. Jesse Mendez seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update

Dr. Rochelle Rowley, Emporia State University's faculty senate president and Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (CoFSP) Chair, shared that the Council's current focus is on following legislative activities and review of the IB scores.

Second Readings

BS in Financial Forensics and Fraud Investigation

Jill Arensdorf introduced Jessica Heronemus-Claiborn, Instructor of Accounting at Fort Hays State University, who shared that this proposal will provide students with a solid foundation in criminal justice as well as business and accounting. It is designed to educate students on the financial aspects of fraud. She emphasized the high level of student interest in the program as well as support from stakeholders and partners.

Susan Bon moved to approve the proposal. Jesse Mendez seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously following discussion that highlighted the use of existing resources for this program.

Other Matters

Request to Approve Spoken English Language Competency policy

Director for Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond shared that the TOEFL iBT, which was previously scored on a scale of 1-30 will now be scored from 1-6. KU's Associate Vice Provost for International Affairs Roberta Pokphonh and Applied English Center Director Pam Pearson researched the new exam and recommended a minimum score of 4.5. She added that the old score requirements will still be maintained in policy for a while to prevent students from having to repeat the exam if they have already passed.

Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to move this item forward to BAASC for consideration. Jill Arensdorf seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to adjourn the meeting. Jill Arensdorf seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.