



March 11, 2026 Kansas Board of Regents Board Meeting

Curtis State Office Building
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

2025 - 2026 Members

Blake Benson, Chair
Matt Crocker
Peter Johnston

Diana Mendoza, Vice Chair
John Dicus
Neelima Parasker

Pamela Ammar
Alysia Johnston
Kathy Wolfe Moore

Building a Future

Higher Education's Commitment to Kansas Families, Business, and the Economy

1. Helping Kansas families
2. Supporting Kansas business
3. Advancing economic prosperity

March 11, 2026 Board Meeting

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MEETING INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

Unless noted, all meetings will take place at the Curtis State Office Building (CSOB) at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, KS 66612 in the meeting room indicated. The Board meeting and all committee meetings can be viewed via [Livestream](#).

Time	Committee/Activity	Location
<u>Wednesday, March 11, 2026</u>		
8:30 am - 9:00 am	System Council of Chief Academic Officers	Suite 530
9:00 am - Adjournment	Council of Chief Academic Officers	Suite 530
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Governance Committee	Kathy Rupp Room
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Council of Student Affairs Officers	Sunflower Room C
10:15 am - 11:45 am	Fiscal Affairs & Audit Standing Committee	Board Room
10:30 am - 11:00 am	System Council of Presidents	Suite 530
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	Academic Affairs Standing Committee	Kathy Rupp
11:00 am - Adjournment	Council of Presidents	Suite 530
Noon - 1:00 pm	Council of Faculty Senate Presidents	Kansas Room A
Noon - 1:00 pm	Students' Advisory Committee	Kathy Rupp Room
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch <i>Board of Regents & President Flanders</i>	Flint Hills Room B
1:30 pm - Adjournment	Board of Regents Meeting	Board Room
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Dinner <i>Board of Regents, President Flanders, Community College & Technical College Leadership</i>	Topeka Country Club 2700 SW Buchanan Topeka, KS 66611
<u>Thursday, March 12, 2026</u>		
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Breakfast <i>Board of Regents, President Flanders, and Chief Business Officers</i>	Suite 530

Agenda

Meeting Information and Schedule for March 11, 2026

I. Call To Order

Presenter: Regent Benson, Chair

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. February 11, 2026 Meeting p. 9
- B. February 13, 2026 Special Meeting p. 16
- C. February 25, 2026 Special Meeting p. 17

III. Introductions and Reports

A. Introductions

B. Report from the Chair

Presenter: Regent Benson, Chair

C. Report from the President & CEO

Presenter: Blake Flanders, President & CEO

D. Report from Council of Faculty Senate Presidents

Presenter: Rochelle Rowley, ESU

E. Report from Students' Advisory Committee

Presenter: Azwad Zahraan, ESU

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs

Presenter: Regent Alysia Johnston

B. Fiscal Affairs & Audit

Presenter: Regent Dicus

C. Governance

Presenter: Regent Benson, Chair

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Fiscal Affairs & Audit

1. Act on Request to Approve Program Statement for HVAC Renovations to Robinson Center, KU

Presenter: Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities p. 18

The University of Kansas seeks Board approval of a \$13.7 million program to renovate HVAC systems at Robinson Center, addressing uncooled areas, end-of-life equipment, and Chiller Plant #2 capacity expansion, with project completion anticipated by the end of 2027.

2. Act on Bond Resolution to Approve the Issuance of Revenue Bonds to Fund the Renovation and Equipping of the University Stadium and Authorize Execution of Various Other Documents in Connection Therewith, WSU p. 19

Presenter: Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities

Wichita State University, authorized by the 2025 Kansas Legislature and in consultation with the Kansas Development Finance Authority, seeks approval to issue revenue bonds up to \$60 million to fund the renovation and equipping of its university stadium, with bonds secured by unencumbered university funds and serviced through multiple sources including the Sedgwick County property tax levy, as part of a phased construction plan with total costs estimated at \$64.25 million, and requests the Board adopt a resolution authorizing necessary agreements and bond issuance documents.

3. Act on Bond Resolution to Approve the Issuance of Revenue Bonds to Fund the Construction, Renovation, Development and Equipment of the Animal Science Arena, Agronomy Research and Innovation Center, Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation, KSU **p. 26**

Presenter: Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities

Kansas State University, authorized by the 2025 Kansas Legislature and in consultation with the Kansas Development Finance Authority, seeks approval to issue revenue bonds not to exceed \$23.5 million to fund the construction, renovation, development, and equipping of the Animal Science Arena, Agronomy Research and Innovation Center, Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation, and renovations to Call Hall and Weber Hall, with the bonds secured by generally available unencumbered university funds to be used primarily to support project cash flow associated with donor pledges, as part of a larger \$203 million Agriculture Innovation Initiative, and requests the Board adopt a resolution authorizing the bond issuance and execution of all related agreements and documents.

4. Act on Request to Execute Master Lease Agreement, KSU **p. 32**

Presenter: Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities

Kansas State University seeks approval to execute a master lease agreement with a new controlled affiliated corporation, K-State Real Estate Collaborations, Inc. (K-REC), under which designated university spaces would be transferred to K-REC for subleasing to industry partners. This arrangement is intended to enhance collaboration, optimize space utilization, and integrate innovation across campus while maintaining university oversight and approval of all subleases.

B. Technical Education Authority

1. Act on Program Proposal for AAS in Electrician, MATC **p. 33**

Presenter: April White, VP Workforce Development

To strengthen and expand the talent pipeline for Kansas business and industry, the development of new and expanded academic programs remains essential. The Board office has received a proposal from Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC) to offer a 34-credit Technical Certificate B and a 61-credit Associate of Applied Science in Electrician (CIP 46.0302).

Labor market data demonstrate strong demand for this occupation. Kansas projects 642 annual openings for electricians, ranking 65 of 796 occupations statewide, with a median annual wage of \$61,830. Recent job posting data show 1,240 total postings statewide with a median advertised salary of \$75,000.

MATC has met all required criteria for program approval. In accordance with Board policy, a 10-day public comment period was held from January 15, 2026, through January 29, 2026, during which no comments were received. The proposed program was subsequently reviewed by the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and is recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents.

2. Act on Program Proposal for Technical Certificate in Medical Assistant, Washburn Tech **p. 36**

Presenter: April White, VP Workforce Development

To strengthen and expand the talent pipeline for Kansas healthcare employers, the development of new and expanded academic programs remains essential. The Board office has received a proposal from Washburn University Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech) to offer a 38-credit Technical Certificate B in Medical Assistant (CIP 51.0801).

Labor market data demonstrate strong demand for medical assistants in Kansas. The occupation ranks 53 of 796 statewide, with 707 annual openings, projected annual employment growth of 1.2%, and a

median annual wage of \$39,090. Recent job posting data show 3,495 total postings statewide with a median advertised salary of \$44,700.

Washburn Tech has met all required criteria for program approval, including program alignment, employer engagement, and documentation of clinical capacity. In accordance with Board policy, a 10-day public comment period was held from January 15, 2026, through January 29, 2026, during which no comments were received. The proposed program was subsequently reviewed by the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and is recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents.

3. Act on New Promise Act Program, AAS in Electrician, MATC

p. 39

Presenter: April White, VP Workforce Development

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act defines Promise-eligible programs as Board-approved two-year associate degrees or technical certificates in high-wage, high-demand, or critical-need fields such as IT, healthcare, manufacturing and trades, and early childhood education. Institutions may also designate certain additional high-need fields tied to local workforce demand, and transfer programs must meet specific 2+2 or articulation agreement requirements.

Manhattan Area Technical College's Electrician program (CIP 46.0302) is recommended for Promise Act eligibility. The program falls under Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades, and Electricians (SOC 47-2111) are identified as a High Wage occupation on the 2025 Kansas High Demand Occupations list. The program has been reviewed by the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and is recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents.

4. Act on New Promise Act Program, Technical Certificate in Medical Assistant, Washburn Tech

p. 40

Presenter: April White, VP Workforce Development

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act defines Promise-eligible programs as Board-approved two-year associate degrees or technical certificates in high-wage, high-demand, or critical-need fields such as IT, healthcare, manufacturing and trades, and early childhood education. Institutions may also designate certain additional high-need fields tied to local workforce demand, and transfer programs must meet specific 2+2 or articulation agreement requirements.

Washburn Tech's Medical Assistant program (CIP 51.0801) is recommended for Promise Act eligibility. The program falls under Mental and Physical Healthcare, and Medical Assistants (SOC 31-9092) are identified as a High Demand occupation on the 2025 Kansas High Demand Occupations list. The program has been reviewed by the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and is recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents.

5. Act on Excel in Career Technical Education Fees for Technical Certification in Medical Assistant, Washburn Tech

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Presenter: April White, VP Workforce Development

The Excel in Career Technical Education (Excel in CTE) initiative provides state-funded tuition for high school students enrolled in postsecondary technical courses. Under K.S.A. 72-3810, the Kansas Board of Regents must establish guidelines for tuition and fee schedules, and all participating program fees are subject to annual approval.

Allowable fees are limited to specific student-required costs such as textbooks, certification exams, uniforms, and similar items, while general student fees, lab fees, and per-credit-hour charges are not

permitted. Students enrolled in technical programs are responsible for tuition and fees associated with any non-tiered courses.

Washburn University Institute of Technology's Medical Assistant program (CIP 51.0801) submitted a total of \$1,025.40 in allowable Excel in CTE fees for approval. The Technical Education Authority has reviewed the request and recommends approval by the Kansas Board of Regents. Students will also independently purchase items such as scrubs and verified credentials.

6. Act on Reclassification of Courses from Tiered to Non-Tiered Status

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Presenter: April White, VP Workforce Development

Senate Bill 143 (2011) established the funding formula distinguishing Tiered and Non-Tiered courses, and Senate Bill 155 (2012) expanded support for high school students in technical education. The Kansas Board of Regents uses statutory definitions (K.S.A. 71-1802) to classify courses, with periodic reviews to ensure proper designation.

Following the 2023 Course Bucket Review Process, the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) recommends reclassifying the following courses from Tiered to Non-Tiered effective AY2027:

- *Introduction to Business*
- *Principles of Marketing*
- *Principles of Management*

TEA also recommends resuming the formal review process to ensure continued alignment with statutory criteria.

C. Other Matters

1. Act on Appointment to Board Committee

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Presenter: Regent Benson, Chair

The Board routinely appoints members to serve on standing committees and external advisory bodies in order to ensure appropriate Board representation, oversight, and continuity of governance. Committee appointments support the Board's ability to carry out its responsibilities and maintain effective engagement with key partners and stakeholders.

VI. Consideration of Discussion Agenda

A. Other Matters

1. Legislative Update

Presenter: Fred Patton

2. Receive Commerce Economic Development Update

Presenter: Lieutenant Governor David Toland

3. Receive Pillar III University Reports

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Presenters: President Linton, Chancellor Girod, President Muma

Pillar III of the Kansas Board of Regents' Building a Future strategic plan focuses on advancing economic prosperity by leveraging public higher education to drive job creation, investment, workforce development, and community well-being across Kansas. Universities submit annual standardized Pillar III reports to document progress. Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Wichita State University will present their annual report on Pillar III of Building a Future this month. Reports from the remaining universities will be presented at future meetings.

4. Discuss Board Member Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement and Act on Actual or Apparent Conflict

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Presenter: John Yeary, General Counsel

In accordance with Board policy, Regent Peter Johnston has reported his actual and apparent conflicts of interest on a form provided to him by Board staff. A summary of that report is before the Board for review and determination of whether any restrictions should be placed on the reported activities.

5. Act on Request to Name an Academic Unit, WSU

Presenter: President Muma

6. Work Session: Proposed Legislation

Presenter: Regent Benson, Chair

VII. Adjournment

February 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Blake Benson at 1:17 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The meeting was held at the Board office, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 520, Topeka, Kansas. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Blake Benson, Chair	John Dicus	Neelima Parasker
	Diana Mendoza, Vice Chair	Matt Crocker	Kathy Wolfe Moore
	Alysia Johnston	Pamela Ammar	

Chair Benson announced a modification to the discussion agenda to include a legislative update.

Approval of Minutes

Regent Crocker moved to approve the minutes of the Board's January 14, 2026, meeting and January 29, 2026, special meeting. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Introductions and Reports

Report from the Chair

Chair Benson congratulated President Flanders on his announced retirement and recognized his decades of service to higher education in Kansas. He highlighted President Flanders’ leadership in developing and implementing the Board’s strategic plan and credited him with strengthening the state’s higher education system for future generations. Chair Benson also noted the ongoing legislative session and that the Board was hosting a reception with legislators that evening to highlight the impact of higher education on Kansas families, businesses, and students, reaffirming the Board’s commitment to a strong partnership with the Legislature.

Report from the President & CEO

President Flanders reported that Kansas was selected to participate in two national initiatives that advance access and student success. He announced the state’s participation in the Fair Chance to Advance initiative through Jobs for the Future, led by the Kansas Department of Corrections, and highlighted the involvement of Kansas colleges in providing education within the corrections system. He emphasized the importance of removing systemic barriers and intentionally connecting education to employment to reduce recidivism. President Flanders also noted Kansas’ selection for the Holistic Advising for Student Success initiative led by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, attributing the opportunity to the strong student success efforts across institutions. He stated that the Board will form teams from two- and four-year institutions to participate in the initiative.

Report from Council of Faculty Senate Presidents

Rochelle Rowley, Faculty Senate President at ESU, reported that the International Baccalaureate program review is nearing completion and has not generated any recommendations for revisions. She noted that all institutions remain on track to submit Faculty of the Year nominations by the May 15 deadline. President Rowley also stated that the Council continues to monitor legislative developments and their potential impact on faculty protections and academic freedom. She concluded by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the Board and noting anticipation for the upcoming breakfast with Regents.

Report from Students' Advisory Committee

Azward Zahraan, Student Advisory Committee Chair, reported that student representatives visited the Kansas State Capitol on February 4, where they met with legislators to share student perspectives and gain insight into

the legislative process, including observing committee deliberations. He noted that the experience strengthened student understanding of policymaking and advocacy. Looking ahead, Mr. Zahraan stated that the Committee discussed upcoming student fee considerations and plans to collaborate with chief financial officers, university presidents, and campus leaders to better understand the issues and convey student feedback.

Standing Committee Reports

Academic Affairs

Regent Johnston reported that the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee met virtually on January 27 and reviewed a new program proposal from Fort Hays State University for a Bachelor of Science in Financial Forensics and Fraud Investigation, which the committee approved for placement on the Board's consent agenda. She also noted that a consultant report on Kansas Apply Free Days recommended designating October 5–9, 2026, as Apply Free Days for Academic Year 2027, expanding the initiative from three to five days, with the recommendation scheduled for Board discussion. Regent Johnston further explained that proposed amendments to the Spoken English Language Competency Policy were reviewed to reflect changes in test scoring and placed on the discussion agenda. She reported that the committee approved the scoring rubric for the AY 2026 Performance Report, marking the final year of the current performance agreements, and stated that Academic Affairs will begin developing the next set of agreements, including consideration of a one-year bridge agreement to support data-informed planning. She concluded by highlighting updates on ongoing academic affairs work, including the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association's Holistic Advising for Student Success initiative, which will strengthen advising and cross-sector collaboration in support of student success and access.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

Regent Dicus reported that the committee held an agenda call on January 28 and met earlier that day, focusing on potential improvements to the management of university capital projects to increase efficiency and reduce repeated reviews of long-term projects. He noted that the committee received the required external management review of Pittsburg State University following a leadership transition, which produced positive findings. Regent Dicus also highlighted a presentation on the Composite Financial Index, explaining its calculation and significance for assessing university financial health. The committee reviewed annual financial reports, including composite index results and current-year budget status, from Pittsburg State University, Fort Hays State University, and Emporia State University, with remaining institutions scheduled for the March meeting. He concluded by noting that the committee reviewed items on the discussion agenda, including student health plan benefits and rates, heard input from both university financial leadership and student representatives, and received an update on the state budget process.

Governance

Chair Benson reported that the committee received the annual campus safety, security, and IT reports from the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas Medical Center, with particular focus on heightened planning and preparedness related to the upcoming World Cup in the Kansas City region and its expected impact on surrounding communities, including Lawrence. Chair Benson emphasized that both campuses demonstrated thorough planning and strong execution to manage increased demands, and he expressed appreciation for their efforts to ensure the safety of visitors, participants, and campus communities while positioning the region positively for the global exposure associated with the event.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Regent Johnston moved to approve the consent agenda. Regent Ammar seconded the motion. The motion carried and the following items were approved:

Academic Affairs

Act on Request to Approve BS in Financial Forensics & Fraud Investigation, FHSU

Fort Hays State University received approval to offer a 120-credit-hour Bachelor of Science in Forensics and Fraud Investigation.

Receive Annual Institutional Review for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, KUMC

The Board accepted the Annual Institutional Review for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education from the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

Act on Request to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Plan and Approve Program Statement for Chiller Building #1 Restoration, KU

The University of Kansas received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2026 capital improvement project plan, and the Board accepted the program statement for the Chiller Building #1 Restoration.

Act on Request to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Plan and Approve Program Statement for Chiller Expansion Project, KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2026 capital improvement project plan, and the Board accepted the program statement for the Chiller Expansion Project.

Act on Request to Allocate EPSCoR Appropriation - System

The Board approved the allocation of \$300,000 for the EPSCoR Program awards.

Act on Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program Distributions - System

The Board approved the distribution of returned FY 2025 funds for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant.

Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program – FY 2026, Revised					
	Original Allocation	FY 2024 Unmatched KCG	Subtotal	FY 2025 Unmatched KCG	New FY 2026 Total
Baker University	\$2,232,209	\$10,413	\$2,242,622	\$23,635	\$2,266,257
Barclay College	\$170,397	\$795	\$171,192	\$1,804	\$172,996
Benedictine College	\$1,133,144	\$5,286	\$1,138,430	\$11,998	\$1,150,428
Bethany College	\$1,171,620	\$5,465	\$1,177,085	\$12,405	\$1,189,490
Bethel College	\$894,587	\$4,173	\$898,760	\$9,472	\$908,232
Central Christian College	\$551,836	\$0	\$551,836	\$5,816	\$557,652
Cleveland University of KC	\$136,319	\$0	\$136,319	\$1,438	\$137,757
Donnelly College	\$496,337	\$2,315	\$498,652	\$5,255	\$503,907
Friends University	\$1,840,294	\$8,585	\$1,848,879	\$19,486	\$1,868,365
Hesston College	\$350,571	\$1,635	\$352,206	\$3,712	\$355,918
Kansas Wesleyan University	\$1,397,261	\$6,518	\$1,403,779	\$14,795	\$1,418,574
Manhattan Christian College	\$315,236	\$1,471	\$316,707	\$0	\$316,707
McPherson College	\$826,429	\$3,855	\$830,284	\$8,750	\$839,034
MidAmerica Nazarene University	\$1,273,721	\$5,942	\$1,279,663	\$13,487	\$1,293,150
Newman University	\$2,151,270	\$10,035	\$2,161,305	\$22,778	\$2,184,083
Ottawa University	\$1,121,994	\$0	\$1,121,994	\$0	\$1,121,994

University of Saint Mary	\$1,329,101	\$6,200	\$1,335,301	\$14,073	\$1,349,374
Southwestern College	\$1,079,727	\$5,037	\$1,084,764	\$11,432	\$1,096,196
Sterling College	\$877,547	\$4,094	\$881,641	\$9,292	\$890,933
Tabor College	\$779,569	\$3,637	\$783,206	\$8,254	\$791,460
Private Institutions' Total	\$20,129,169	\$85,456	\$20,214,625	\$197,882	\$20,412,507
Emporia State University	\$1,258,419	\$5,342	\$1,263,761	\$12,371	\$1,276,132
Fort Hays State University	\$2,937,762	\$12,472	\$2,950,234	\$28,880	\$2,979,114
Kansas State University	\$4,310,834	\$18,301	\$4,329,135	\$42,377	\$4,371,512
Pittsburg State University	\$1,715,597	\$7,283	\$1,722,880	\$16,865	\$1,739,745
University of Kansas	\$4,292,280	\$18,222	\$4,310,502	\$42,196	\$4,352,698
KU Medical Center *	\$59,906	\$254	\$60,160	\$589	\$60,749
Wichita State University	\$4,056,815	\$17,223	\$4,074,038	\$39,881	\$4,113,919
Washburn University	\$1,497,556	\$6,358	\$1,503,914	\$14,722	\$1,518,636
Public Universities' Total	\$20,129,169	\$85,455	\$20,214,624	\$197,881	\$20,412,505
Total State Funding	\$40,258,338	\$170,911	\$40,429,249	\$395,763	\$40,825,012

Technical Education Authority

Act on Program Proposals for AAS in Heavy Equipment Operation and an AAS in Masonry, WSU Tech

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology received approval to offer a 35-credit-hour Technical Certificate and 60-credit-hour Associate of Applied Science in Heavy Equipment Operation, and a 38-credit-hour Technical Certificate and 60-credit-hour Associate of Applied Sciences in Masonry Construction.

Act on New Promise Act Programs

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology received approval for Promise Act eligible programs Heavy Equipment Operation (49.0202) and Masonry Construction (46.0101).

Act on Academic Year 2027 Excel in Career Technical Education Fees

The Board approved the Academic Year 2027 Excel in Career Technical Education fees charged to high school students.

(list on file with official minutes)

Act on Updates to Excel in Career Technical Education Eligibility

The Board approved the recommended updates to eligibility for state funding in the Excel in Career Technical Education program.

Consideration of Discussion Agenda

Academic Affairs

Act on Proposed Amendments to Spoken English Language Competency Policy

Jenn Bonds-Raacke, Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented proposed amendments to the Spoken English Language Competency Policy to align with recent changes to the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT) examination. She explained that Board policy requires assessment of spoken English proficiency for prospective faculty and graduate teaching assistants whose native language is not English and outlined the existing criteria for appointment without remediation. She reported that revisions to the TOEFL iBT, effective January 2026, changed the speaking score scale from 1–30 to 1–6, prompting KU to evaluate the new

scoring methodology. Based on that analysis, KU recommended establishing a minimum speaking score of 4.5, which is comparable to the prior benchmark. Vice President Bonds-Raacke noted that the proposed policy updates also allow applicants who took the exam before the change to retain their valid scores for the full two-year period, avoiding unnecessary retesting.

Regent Johnston moved to approve the amendments to the Spoken English Language Competency policy. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Receive Report on Kansas Free Application Days

Mistie Knox, Board Consultant, presented an overview of the Kansas Apply Free Days initiative, highlighting its outcomes and proposed next steps. She explained that the program, now in its third year of a pilot phase, waives undergraduate application fees for Kansas residents during a designated fall window and represents a significant institutional investment. Mrs. Knox reported that nearly \$296,000 in application fees were waived during the three-day Apply Free Days period in Academic Year 2026 and noted that, while overall yield rates were lower than applications submitted outside the window, the initiative effectively reached key populations, including adult learners, first generation students, and individuals who had not previously planned to apply to college. She emphasized that feedback from counselors and students indicated the program reduced perceived barriers, created urgency, and supported application completion through coordinated school-based efforts.

(presentation on file with official minutes)

Act on Kansas Free Application Days (Academic Year 2027)

Mrs. Knox presented a recommendation for extending Apply Free Days from three to five consecutive days in October and using the upcoming year as the final pilot year to support informed decisions about the program's future.

Vice Chair Mendoza moved to approve the Kansas Free Application Days for Academic Year 2027, to be held on October 5-9, 2026. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

Act on Student Health Insurance Benefits and Rates for Plan Year 2026-2027

David Miller, Student Insurance Advisory Committee Chair, presented a recommendation to approve student health insurance benefits and rates for the 2026–2027 plan year. He explained that the Board has held statutory authority since 2006 to contract for voluntary student health insurance and that the current contract with UnitedHealth Student Resources, awarded in 2020, spans ten years with termination provisions. Representing all six state universities and the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), the advisory committee unanimously recommended modest premium increases of 3.21% for Plan 1 and 3.23% for Plans 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Miller noted that rate negotiations began later than usual due to UnitedHealth's analysis of international enrollment impacts, moderate increases in claim activity, and a 6% rate reduction granted in the prior policy year. He also highlighted the committee's recommendation to include HealthiestYou by Teladoc—a 24/7 virtual care and telehealth benefit—at no additional cost to students.

Regent Dicus moved to approve the Student Health Insurance Benefits and Rates for Plan Year 2026-2027. Regent Crocker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Strategic Plan

Receive Annual Report on the Board's Strategic Plan, Building a Future

President Flanders presented the annual report on the Board’s strategic plan, *Building a Future*, highlighting progress and key challenges facing Kansas higher education. He emphasized that a strong postsecondary system is essential to the state’s economic competitiveness amid persistent labor shortages and demographic headwinds. President Flanders emphasized the value of education beyond high school in improving wages, job security, and broader social outcomes, while stressing that degrees must lead to family-sustaining employment.

He reported continued success in affordability and student support strategies, including restrained tuition growth, expanded need-based aid, and systemwide adoption of evidence-based student success practices. Since 2020, student loan debt among Pell recipients at state universities has declined by 15%, and a significant share of students graduate with no debt. President Flanders noted that demand for need-based aid exceeds available funding and warned that reductions—particularly to flexible “emergency aid”—would negatively affect retention and on-time graduation for low-income students.

President Flanders addressed enrollment trends shaped by the long-term “enrollment cliff,” noting stabilization and growth at some institutions, continued gains at technical colleges, and persistent declines at community colleges. He called for intensified out-of-state recruitment and stronger applied learning and internship opportunities to build and retain the Kansas workforce, citing improved retention of nonresident graduates. He also highlighted strong outcomes in graduates’ employment and wages, the success of the system’s engineering initiative, growth in Excel in CTE participation, and expanding research and development activity that supports innovation and economic development statewide.

Finally, President Flanders reaffirmed priorities in literacy, facilities renewal, and intentional economic development. He described progress on the Blueprint for Literacy, alignment of educator preparation with the science of reading, and the effectiveness of the facilities initiative in reducing deferred maintenance. He concluded by noting the importance of stable, targeted investments and refined metrics to sustain progress and ensure higher education continues to advance prosperity for Kansas and its communities.

(presentation on file with official minutes)

Other Matters

Receive Pillar III University Reports

Chair Benson shared that the Pillar 3 reports were rescheduled and will be accompanied by a presentation from the Lieutenant Governor at the March Board meeting.

Act on Request to Name Spaces, KSU

President Linton presented a request to name three spaces associated with the university’s Agricultural Innovation Initiative, emphasizing that such requests reflect both project progress and the vital role of philanthropic support. He explained that the initiative represents a \$210 million, multi-phase project involving renovations, demolitions, and the construction of new facilities. President Linton highlighted the proposed naming of the Western Star Global Grain and Food Center, an interdisciplinary science facility integrating grain, food, animal, dairy, and baking sciences, jointly supported by the Hale and Vanier families; an adjacent outdoor plaza recognizing the Kruse family for their long-standing support of agriculture students and programs; and a complex of buildings supporting the Agronomy Research Farm, funded by alumnus Eldon Gideon.

Regent Dicus moved to approve the naming of the Western Star Global Grain and Food Center, Kruse Family Plaza, and the Eldon Gideon Agronomy Research and Innovation Complex. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Legislative Update

Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff, provided a legislative update. She noted the Legislature was approximately one-third through the session and approaching turnaround, the point at which most bills must advance from their chamber of origin to remain viable. She highlighted several bills affecting higher education, including House Bill 2428 related to DEI and curriculum requirements; House Bill 2485, a Board-supported measure addressing scholarship repayment obligations, which has advanced to the House floor; and House Bill 2487, concerning the Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship, which passed the House unanimously and will move to the Senate. Chief of Staff Oliver also summarized activity on bills related to institutional affiliations, faculty tenure, Promise Act Scholarship restrictions on co-requisite coursework, and Workforce Pell, emphasizing the volume and pace of legislative activity.

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, followed with a budget update, comparing the Board’s requests with current House and Senate positions. She reported a proposed \$2.3 million reduction in need-based aid, lowering funding from approximately \$24 million to \$21 million and potentially affecting more than 1,100 students, particularly through the loss of flexible awards that help close small financial gaps. Vice President Frisbie noted agreement in both chambers to fully fund the rolling three-year average for community and technical college course reimbursements, though a planned \$10 million reduction next year would affect payments to colleges for Excel in CTE courses. She outlined differences between chambers on student success initiative funding, Blueprint for Literacy appropriations, and energy project support. She also discussed House-only operating reductions for state universities and several policy provisos tied to DEI certifications to tenured faculty on improvement plans, and a proposed tuition freeze for the state universities. Vice President Frisbie concluded by emphasizing that funding levels and budget language remain fluid as negotiations continue.

Adjournment

Chair Benson adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Blake Benson, Chair

February 13, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes

The special meeting was called to order by Chair Blake Benson at 2:30 p.m. on February 13, 2026. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Blake Benson, Chair	John Dicus	Neelima Parasker
	Diana Mendoza, Vice Chair	Matt Crocker	Kathy Wolfe Moore
	Alysia Johnston	Pamela Ammar	Peter Johnston

Executive Session

Vice Chair Mendoza moved that the Board recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject of the executive session was to discuss preparations for annual CEO evaluations, and the purpose is to protect the privacy of the individual Board employees involved. The executive session would last one hour and would include members of the Board; Board President and CEO Blake Flanders; General Counsel John Yeary; Chancellor Doug Girod, for all or a portion; KU General Counsel Kim Grunewald, for all or a portion; President Richard Linton, for all or a portion; KSU General Counsel Charles Jake, for all or a portion; President Richard Muma, for all or a portion; and WSU General Counsel Stacia Boden, for all or a portion. The open meeting of the Board would resume at 3:30 p.m. Regent Ammar seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 3:30 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

Adjournment

Chair Benson adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Blake Benson, Chair

February 25, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes

The special meeting was called to order by Chair Blake Benson at 2:00 p.m. on February 25, 2026. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Blake Benson, Chair	John Dicus	Neelima Parasker
	Diana Mendoza, Vice Chair	Matt Crocker	Kathy Wolfe Moore
	Alysia Johnston	Pamela Ammar	Peter Johnston

Executive Session

Vice Chair Mendoza moved that the Board recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject of the executive session was to discuss preparations for annual CEO evaluations, and the purpose is to protect the privacy of the individual Board employees involved. The executive session would last one hour and would include members of the Board; Board President and CEO Blake Flanders; General Counsel John Yeary; Chancellor Doug Girod, for all or a portion; KU General Counsel Kim Grunewald, for all or a portion; President Richard Linton, for all or a portion; KSU General Counsel Charles Jake, for all or a portion; President Richard Muma, for all or a portion; and WSU General Counsel Stacia Boden, for all or a portion. The open meeting of the Board would resume at 3:00 p.m. Regent Wolfe Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 3:01 p.m., the Board returned to open session. Vice Chair Mendoza moved to extend the executive session for 15 minutes to 3:16 p.m. Regent Ammar seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 3:14 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

Adjournment

Chair Benson adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Blake Benson, Chair

Act on Request to Approve Program Statement for HVAC Renovations to Robinson Center, KU

The University of Kansas requests the Board accept the program statement to renovate and improve the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in Robinson Center on the Lawrence Campus. The scope of work includes adding cooling to areas of the building that are not currently cooled; replacing end-of-life HVAC equipment, controls and hydronic piping; and increasing the capacity of Chiller Plant #2 to provide cooling water to Robinson.

The current total estimated project cost, including architectural/engineering fees, construction and contingencies is \$13.7 million. In addition to the University's allocation from the Educational Building Fund, funding sources for this project will now also include the Kansas Campus Restoration Act Fund and University Interest Earnings. Design and construction services will be procured with the standard state processes and procedures, and the university intends to utilize a design-bid-build delivery method. Project completion is anticipated by the end of 2027.

Act on Bond Resolution to Approve the Issuance of Revenue Bonds to Fund the Renovation and Equipping of the University Stadium and Authorize Execution of Various Other Documents in Connection Therewith, WSU

The Kansas Development Finance Authority (“K DFA”), created by the 1987 Kansas Legislature, K.S.A. 74-8901, *et seq.*, has authority to issue bonds on behalf of the State for projects authorized by the Legislature. K.S.A. Supp. 74-8905(b) provides, in part, that:

The authority may issue bonds for activities and projects of state agencies as requested by the secretary of administration. Research facilities of state educational institutions shall be subject to the provisions of this subsection (b). No bonds may be issued pursuant to this act for any activity or project of a state agency unless the activity or project either has been approved by an appropriation or other act of the legislature or has been approved by the state finance council acting on this matter which is hereby characterized as a matter of legislative delegation and subject to the guidelines prescribed in subsection (c) of K.S.A. 75-3711c, and amendments thereto.

Authority to initiate and complete a capital improvement project and to issue revenue bonds of \$60 million for the renovation and equipping of the University Stadium on the campus of Wichita State University was granted by the 2025 Kansas Legislature in Senate Bill 125, Section 181(f), and published at Chapter 117, Section 181(f) of the 2025 Session Laws of Kansas:

In addition to the other purposes for which expenditures may be made by Wichita state university from moneys appropriated from the state general fund or any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027, as authorized by this or other appropriation act of the 2025 or 2026 regular session of the legislature, expenditures may be made by Wichita state university from such moneys for fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027 to provide for the issuance of bonds by the Kansas development finance authority in accordance with K.S.A. 74-8905, and amendments thereto, for a capital improvement project for the renovation and equipment of the university stadium on the campus of Wichita state university: *Provided*, That such capital improvement project is here-by approved for Wichita state university for the purposes of K.S.A. 74-8905(b), and amendments thereto, and the authorization of the issuance of bonds by the Kansas development finance authority in accordance with such statute: *Provided further*, That Wichita state university may make expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds for such capital improvement project: *Provided, however*, That expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds for such capital improvement project shall not exceed \$60,000,000 plus all amounts required for costs of bond issuance, costs of interest on the bonds issued for such capital improvement project during the renovation of such project and, for a period of not more than one year following completion of such project, credit enhancement costs and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds: *And provided further*, That all moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds shall be deposited and accounted for as prescribed by applicable bond covenants: *And provided further*, That debt service for any such bonds for such capital improvement project shall be financed by appropriations from any appropriate special revenue fund or funds: *And provided further*, That any such bonds and interest thereon shall be an obligation only of the Kansas development finance authority, shall not constitute a debt of the state of Kansas within the meaning of section 6 or 7 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas and shall not pledge the full faith and credit or the taxing power of the state of Kansas: *And provided further*, That Wichita state university shall make provisions for the maintenance of the stadium and related equipment and infrastructure.

Pursuant to this authorization, and after consulting with KDFA, the University proposes to have KDFA issue revenue bonds in an aggregate principal amount sufficient to finance expenditures for costs of the University Stadium project in an amount not to exceed \$60,000,000, plus any additional amounts required to finance costs of issuance, costs of interest on such revenue bonds during the construction of the project, credit enhancement costs, and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on such revenue bonds. After consultation with KDFA, the University is proposing that the bonds be secured by a pledge of generally available unencumbered funds of the University. The term of the bonds will not exceed 30 years.

The debt will be serviced through a combination of sources, including the Board of Trustees (“BOT”), secured private gifts, and local partnerships. The BOT receives the proceeds of a one and one-half mill special ad valorem tax levied on all taxable property in Sedgwick County. The BOT has agreed to pledge a portion of the proceeds of the levy to service debt on the proposed bond issue. K.S.A. 76-3a16 requires the Board to approve expenditures by the BOT from the Special Tax Levy.

The University Stadium project is a replacement for Cessna Stadium and at completion will seat approximately 12,500 to 14,000 spectators. The project was first submitted to the Board of Regents at its September 2022 meeting and was subsequently amended at the Board’s June 2023 meeting to increase the total project budget and approve the program statement to add a phased, multi-year construction plan. Phasing has been developed around maintaining the spectator seating and other infrastructure required for the Wichita State Track and Field teams as well as the annual KSHS Track and Field Championship. At the January 2024 Board meeting use of the Construction Manager at Risk alternative project delivery method was approved.

Construction for Phase 1A began in summer 2024 and includes improvements on the east side of the existing track (bleacher seating, new free-standing field lights, pavilion building with restrooms/ticketing area/concessions, and plaza). Phase 1B, began in summer 2025, widens the existing field to accommodate a regulation-sized soccer field and reconfigures the 9-lane track around the widened field. Phase 2, the final phase, includes with Phase 2A the demolition of the existing west Cessna Stadium structure in early June 2026. Phase 2B would follow with construction of a new west stadium structure. The new west stadium would include a single level of press boxes and suites, offices/locker rooms/team room areas for a future soccer team, as well as restrooms, concessions, and storage rooms. The anticipated total cost for all phases of the University Stadium Project is approximately \$64.25 million, with this bond issue for the project currently estimated at \$46.4 million, excluding issuance costs.

This request represents the third issuance of revenue bonds in support of the University Stadium project, with KDFA issuing its Series 2023J Bonds on December 21, 2023, for \$11.04 million and Series 2025D Bonds on March 25, 2025, for \$6.81 million. Authorization for both the 2023J and 2025D bonds were granted by the by the 2023 Legislature in House Bill 2184, Section 162(e), and published at Chapter 82, Section 162(e) of the 2023 Session Laws of Kansas.

Administrative Costs

In conjunction with the issuance of the proposed bonds, since KDFA has and will incur expenses in relation to the issuance of the proposed bonds and subsequent administration of the Bond Resolution and Pledge of Revenues Agreement, it will be necessary for the University to execute an Administrative Service Fee Agreement to provide for reimbursement of those expenses, as well as other documents and certificates necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in the Resolution and the issuance and delivery of the bonds.

University Indebtedness

	FY 2027 Projected with Debt Issuance	FY 2027 Projected without Debt Issuance	FY 2026 Estimated	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2024 Actual
Debt Burden Ratio	3.7%	3.5%	3.9%	2.8%	3.6%
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.92	2.06	2.19	2.45	2.13
Viability Ratio	.777	.885	.731	0.789	0.832

Wichita State University had \$169.5 million in total outstanding debt as of June 30, 2025, that is serviced by the University. In addition, in December of 2025 the University closed on the State Aviation Jobs Loan program for \$23.0 million. Other outstanding University-related bond debt includes \$50.1 million as of June 30, 2025, that is secured by a pledge of revenues produced by the BOT’s one and one-half mill special ad valorem tax and was issued by the Sedgwick County Public Building Commission (series 2014-3) and the Kansas Development Finance Authority (series 2023J). As a result, the University is not obligated to pay any debt service on these bonds and this debt is not reflected on the University’s balance sheet. Finally, WSU Tech, a component unit of Wichita State University, issued \$25.0 million in debt in December 2025. Although the University is not obligated to service or support the debt, because WSU Tech is a component unit of the University, the debt is reflected on the University’s balance sheet.

In accordance with Board policy (Ch. II, E, 3, c, vi), WSU’s debt burden ratio, debt service coverage, and viability ratio are provided above for the two most recent years, the current year, and the following year. The figures provided are computed annually using the annual financial report and compiled into the Composite Financial Index. The ratios should be considered in the context of the institution’s overall mission and performance.

The debt burden ratio is the proportion of the University’s current principal payments and interest expense as a percentage of total expenditures. An upper threshold for this ratio has been viewed as 7.0 percent, meaning that current principal payments and interest expense should not represent more than 7.0 percent of total expenditures. The debt coverage ratio is computed using all debt of the University, including the component units, with net operating income divided by total debt service payments. An organization with a ratio greater than 1.0 generates more net income than is needed to pay its debts.

The University’s viability ratio is used to gauge the University’s ability to assume new debt and measures the institution’s debt capacity. It is calculated by dividing the expendable net position by its long-term debt. A higher ratio indicates stronger financial health, suggesting the institution has more resources to cover its debt and a greater ability to take on new debt or weather financial difficulties. An organization with a ratio greater than 1.0 generates more net assets than is needed to pay its outstanding debt.

Conclusion

Wichita State University requests the Board adopt the Resolution (set out in full below). This Resolution would authorize the WSU President to execute, on behalf of the University, the Pledge of Revenues Agreement, Tax Compliance Agreement, and Administrative Service Fee Agreement, in such form as is approved by the University’s General Counsel, and to execute any and all other documents and certificates necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Resolution and issuance of the bonds. The Resolution further would authorize the Chair and President and CEO of the Board to execute the Resolution and any and all other documents and

certificates, in such form as is approved by General Counsel to the Board, and necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Resolution and the issuance of the bonds. Staff recommends approval of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE KANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ITS REVENUE BONDS TO PROVIDE ALL OR A PORTION OF THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO RENOVATE AND EQUIP THE UNIVERSITY STADIUM ON THE CAMPUS OF WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PLEDGE OF REVENUES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE KANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY THAT CONTAINS CERTAIN COVENANTS AND PROVISIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PLEDGE OF CERTAIN FUNDS OF WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VARIOUS OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF, SECURITY AND PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS.

WHEREAS, the Kansas Board of Regents (the “Board”) is vested under the Constitution and laws of the State of Kansas with supervision and control over Wichita State University (the “University”), and is authorized under such laws to adopt this Resolution and perform, execute and carry out, or cause to be performed, executed and carried out, the powers, duties and obligations of the Board under this Resolution in connection with the improvement and expansion of certain facilities located on the campus of the University and the University’s operation thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the University have heretofore determined that it is advisable to undertake a capital improvement project to renovate and equip the university stadium on the campus of the University (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 117, Section 181(f) of the 2025 Session Laws of Kansas authorizes the Kansas Development Finance Authority (the “Authority”), on behalf of the University, to issue its revenue bonds in an aggregate principal amount sufficient to finance costs of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$60,000,000, plus all amounts required to finance costs of issuance, costs of interest on such revenue bonds during the renovation of the Project and for a period of not more than one year following completion of the Project, credit enhancement costs and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on such revenue bonds; and

WHEREAS, the University has requested that revenue bonds secured by a pledge of generally available unencumbered funds of the University be issued by the Authority pursuant to K.S.A. 74-8901 *et seq.* on behalf of the University to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Project (the “Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, the University intends to make provisions for the maintenance of the Project and the payment of debt service on the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Board, upon recommendation of the University, hereby finds and determines that it is advisable that the Bonds be issued by the Authority on behalf of the University, such bonds to be secured by the pledge of generally available unencumbered funds of the University; and

WHEREAS, prior to the issuance of the Bonds, the Authority will receive from the Secretary of Administration a request to issue bonds for the purpose of financing the Project and paying related interest, costs and reserves on behalf of the University; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the issuance of the Bonds, the University will be required to execute a Pledge of Revenues Agreement between the University and the Authority (the “Pledge Agreement”), which contains certain covenants and provisions with respect to the pledge of generally available unencumbered funds of the University; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the Authority has and will incur additional expenses in relation to the issuance of the Bonds and subsequent administration and enforcement of the Pledge Agreement, and the University desires to reimburse the Authority for said additional expenses through the execution of an Administrative Service Fee Agreement (the “Administrative Agreement”).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board hereby approves the issuance of the Bonds by the Authority on behalf of the University in an aggregate principal amount sufficient to finance costs of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$60,000,000 plus all amounts required to finance costs of issuance, costs of interest on the Bonds during renovation of the Project and for a period of not more than one year following completion of the Project, credit enhancement costs and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the Bonds. The Bonds may be issued jointly with other revenue bonds for the University and shall be issued substantially in the form and with the repayment terms and provisions contained in the information presented to the Board by the Authority and the University.

SECTION 2. The Board hereby authorizes the President of the University to execute on behalf of the University the Pledge Agreement, the Administrative Agreement and such other documents and certificates necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this Resolution and the issuance of the Bonds, in such forms as are approved by the General Counsel to the University. The Board hereby further authorizes and instructs the Chair and President and CEO of the Board to execute on behalf of the Board such documents and certificates necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this Resolution and the issuance of the Bonds, in such forms as are approved by the General Counsel to the Board.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

CERTIFICATE

We, the undersigned Chair and President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was lawfully adopted by the Board at its meeting held on March ____, 2026.

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

(SEAL)

By _____
Blake Benson, Chair

ATTEST:

By _____
Blake Flanders, Ph.D., President and CEO

Act on Bond Resolution to Approve the Issuance of Revenue Bonds to Fund the Construction, Renovation, Development and Equipment of the Animal Science Arena, Agronomy Research and Innovation Center, Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation, KSU

Background

The Kansas Development Finance Authority (KDFA), created by the 1987 Kansas Legislature, K.S.A. 74-8901, *et seq.*, has authority to issue bonds on behalf of the State for projects authorized by the Legislature. K.S.A. 74-8905(b) provides, in part, that:

The authority may issue bonds for activities and projects of state agencies as requested by the secretary of administration. Research facilities of state educational institutions shall be subject to the provisions of this subsection (b). No bonds may be issued pursuant to this act for any activity or project of a state agency unless the activity or project either has been approved by an appropriation or other act of the legislature or has been approved by the state finance council acting on this matter which is hereby characterized as a matter of legislative delegation and subject to the guidelines prescribed in subsection (c) of K.S.A. 75-3711c, and amendments thereto.

Authority to initiate and complete a capital improvement project and to issue revenue bonds of \$23.5 million for the Agriculture Innovation Initiative project has been granted by Section 175(f) of Senate Bill 125 of the 2025 Kansas Legislature.

In addition to the other purposes for which expenditures may be made by Kansas state university from moneys appropriated from the state general fund or any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2026, as authorized by this or other appropriation act of the 2025 regular session of the legislature, expenditures may be made by Kansas state university from such moneys for fiscal year 2026 to provide for the issuance of bonds by the Kansas development finance authority in accordance with K.S.A. 74-8905, and amendments thereto, for a capital improvement project to complete the construction, renovation, development and equipment of the animal science arena, agronomy research and innovation center, global center for grain and food innovation, Call hall and Weber hall: *Provided*, That such capital improvement project is hereby approved for Kansas state university for the purposes of K.S.A. 74-8905(b), and amendments thereto, and the authorization of the issuance of bonds by the Kansas development finance authority in accordance with such statute: *Provided further*, That Kansas state university may make expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds for such capital improvement project: *Provided, however*, That expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds for such capital improvement project shall not exceed \$23,500,000 plus all amounts required for costs of bond issuance, costs of interest on the bonds issued for such capital improvement project during the construction and renovation of such project and, for a period of not more than one year following completion of such project, credit enhancement costs and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds: *And provided further*, That all moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds shall be deposited and accounted for as prescribed by applicable bond covenants: *And provided further*, That debt service for any such bonds for such capital improvement project shall be financed by appropriations from any appropriate special revenue fund or funds: *And provided further*, That any such bonds and interest thereon shall be an obligation only of the Kansas development finance authority, shall not constitute a debt of the state of Kansas within the meaning of section 6 or 7 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas and shall not pledge the full faith and

credit or the taxing power of the state of Kansas: *And provided further*, That Kansas state university shall make provisions for the maintenance of the animal science arena, agronomy research and innovation center, global center for grain and food innovation, Call hall and Weber hall.

Pursuant to these authorizations, and after consulting with KDFA, the University proposes to issue Revenue Bonds in an aggregate principal amount sufficient to finance expenditures for costs of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$23,500,000, plus any additional amounts required to finance costs of issuance, costs of interest on such revenue bonds during the construction of the project, credit enhancement costs, and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on such revenue bonds. After consultation with KDFA, the University is proposing that the Bonds be secured by a pledge of generally available unencumbered funds of the University.

The agronomy research and innovation center was first submitted in the capital improvement project plan and approved by the Board at its September 2022 meeting. The animal science arena, global center for grain and food innovation, Call Hall and Weber Hall renovations were first submitted in the capital improvement project plan and approved by the Board at its November 2022 meeting.

The Project

The Agriculture Innovation Initiative is an investment to leverage K-State's core areas of strength in new ways by instituting an interdisciplinary environment of dynamic innovation to support grain, food, animal and agronomy research. The initiative includes construction of the Agronomy Research and Innovation Center, Bilbrey Family Event Center and Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation and renovations to Weber and Call Halls. The Agronomy Research and Innovation Center will bring research teams together from across campus to partner with industry in order to make new discoveries in areas such as crop production or soil health. The Bilbrey Family Event Center is a new multispecies event center with a competition arena to support teaching and youth and extension efforts in equine and livestock sciences. The Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation strategically connects K-State's world-renowned animal science and food science programs with its unique grains science programs to address opportunities and challenges in the agriculture and food sectors. Renovations to Weber Hall and Call Hall will create a new learning pavilion to provide students with hands-on learning, modernize the Call Hall dairy processing plant, update research and teaching labs and modernize classrooms.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$203 million, with \$23.5 million funded from the issuance of bond funds and the remaining \$179.8 million paid from state, university and private funds. The bonds will be issued primarily to support the cash flow needs associated with donor pledges for the facilities that will be received over a 10-year period.

Administrative Costs

In conjunction with the issuance of the proposed bonds, since KDFA has and will incur expenses in relation to the issuance of the proposed bonds and subsequent administration of the Resolution and Pledge of Revenues Agreement, it will be necessary for the University to execute an Administrative Agreement to provide for reimbursement of those expenses, as well as other documents and certificates necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in the Resolutions and the issuance and delivery of the bonds.

University Indebtedness

	FY 2027 Projected with Debt Issuance	FY 2027 Projected without Debt Issuance	FY 2026 Estimated	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2024 Actual
Debt Burden Ratio	4.30%	3.80%	3.90%	3.90%	4.00%
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.33	1.5	1.38	1.35	1.51
Viability Ratio	2.1	2.1	2	2.03	1.8

KSU’s debt burden ratio, debt service coverage, and viability ratio are provided above for the previous five years. The figures provided are computed annually using the annual financial report and compiled into the Composite Financial Index. The ratios should be considered in the context of the institution’s overall mission and performance.

The debt burden ratio is the proportion of the University’s current principal payments and interest expense as a percentage of total expenditures. An upper threshold for this ratio has been viewed as 7.0 percent.

The debt coverage ratio is computed using all debt of the University, including the component units, with net operating income divided by total debt service payments. An organization with a ratio greater than 1.0 generates more net income than is needed to pay its debts.

The viability reserve ratio measures the availability of expendable net assets to cover debt should the institution need to settle its obligations as of the balance sheet date. The ratio indicates the amount of debt that could be repaid just from reserves. Minimal financial health for the ratio is 1.25, meaning that reserves exceed total obligations by one quarter.

Conclusion

The Board is asked to adopt the Resolution (set out in full below), to approve the issuance of bonds for the specified construction and renovation projects. The Resolution would authorize the University President to execute the Pledge Agreement in such form as is approved by the University’s general counsel and to execute any and all other documents and certificates necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Resolution and the issuance of the bonds. The Resolution further would authorize the Chair and President and CEO of the Board to execute the Resolution and any and all other documents and certificates, in such form as is approved by General Counsel to the Board, and necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Resolution and the issuance of the bonds. Staff confirms that the University is authorized to seek issuance of bonds that are in conformance with the Resolution.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE KANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ITS REVENUE BONDS TO PROVIDE ALL OR A PORTION OF THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO UNDERTAKE A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT, RENOVATE, DEVELOP AND EQUIP THE ANIMAL SCIENCE ARENA, AGRONOMY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTER, GLOBAL CENTER FOR GRAIN AND FOOD INNOVATION, CALL HALL AND WEBER HALL ON THE MANHATTAN CAMPUS OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PLEDGE OF REVENUES AGREEMENT BETWEEN KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE KANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY THAT CONTAINS CERTAIN COVENANTS AND PROVISIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PLEDGE OF CERTAIN FUNDS OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VARIOUS OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF, SECURITY AND PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS.

WHEREAS, the Kansas Board of Regents (the “Board”) is vested under the Constitution and laws of the State of Kansas with supervision and control over Kansas State University (the “University”), and is authorized under such laws to adopt this Resolution and perform, execute and carry out, or cause to be performed, executed and carried out, the powers, duties and obligations of the Board under this Resolution in connection with the improvement and expansion of certain facilities located on the campus of the University and the University’s operation thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the University have heretofore determined that it is advisable to undertake a capital improvement project to construct, renovate, develop and equip the animal science arena, agronomy research and innovation center, global center for grain and food innovation, Call Hall and Weber Hall on the Manhattan campus of the University (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 117, Section 175(f) of the 2025 Session Laws of Kansas authorizes the Kansas Development Finance Authority (the “Authority”), on behalf of the University, to issue its revenue bonds in an aggregate principal amount sufficient to finance costs of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$23,500,000, plus all amounts required to finance costs of issuance, costs of interest on such revenue bonds during the construction and renovation of the Project and for a period of not more than one year following completion of the Project, credit enhancement costs and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on such revenue bonds; and

WHEREAS, the University has requested that revenue bonds secured by a pledge of generally available unencumbered funds of the University be issued by the Authority pursuant to K.S.A. 74-8901 *et seq.* on behalf of the University to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Project (the “Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, the University intends to make provisions for the maintenance of the Project and the payment of debt service on the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Board, upon recommendation of the University, hereby finds and determines that it is advisable that the Bonds be issued by the Authority on behalf of the University, such bonds to be secured by the pledge of generally available unencumbered funds of the University; and

WHEREAS, prior to the issuance of the Bonds, the Authority will receive from the Secretary of Administration a request to issue bonds for the purpose of financing the Project and paying related interest, costs and reserves on behalf of the University; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the issuance of the Bonds, the University will be required to execute a Pledge of Revenues Agreement between the University and the Authority (the "Pledge Agreement"), which contains certain covenants and provisions with respect to the pledge of generally available unencumbered funds of the University; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the Authority has and will incur additional expenses in relation to the issuance of the Bonds and subsequent administration and enforcement of the Pledge Agreement, and the University desires to reimburse the Authority for said additional expenses through the execution of an Administrative Service Fee Agreement (the "Administrative Agreement").

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board hereby approves the issuance of the Bonds by the Authority on behalf of the University in an aggregate principal amount sufficient to finance costs of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$23,500,000 plus all amounts required to finance costs of issuance, costs of interest on the Bonds during construction and renovation of the Project and for a period of not more than one year following completion of the Project, credit enhancement costs and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the Bonds. The Bonds may be issued jointly with other revenue bonds for the University and shall be issued substantially in the form and with the repayment terms and provisions contained in the information presented to the Board by the Authority and the University.

SECTION 2. The Board hereby authorizes the President of the University to execute on behalf of the University the Pledge Agreement, the Administrative Agreement and such other documents and certificates necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this Resolution and the issuance of the Bonds, in such forms as are approved by the General Counsel to the University. The Board hereby further authorizes and instructs the Chair and President and CEO of the Board to execute on behalf of the Board such documents and certificates necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this Resolution and the issuance of the Bonds, in such forms as are approved by the General Counsel to the Board.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

CERTIFICATE

We, the undersigned Chair and President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was lawfully adopted by the Board at its meeting held on March ____, 2026.

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

(SEAL)

By _____
Blake Benson, Chair

ATTEST:

By _____
Blake Flanders, Ph.D., President and CEO

Act on Request to Execute Master Lease Agreement, KSU

Kansas State University (KSU) requests approval to execute a master lease agreement with K-State Real Estate Collaborations, Inc. (K-REC), a new, controlled non-profit corporate entity established by the university. The master lease agreement will transfer control of designated university spaces to K-REC. In turn, K-REC will sub-lease and sub-license space, as appropriate, to relevant industry partners.

K-State seeks a more efficient procedure for making certain university-owned space available to corporate and industry partners. For example, the university's new *Western Star Global Grain and Food Center* will offer ideal space for industry partners and university scholars and learners to collaborate; the university's Bioprocessing and Industrial Value Added Products (BIVAP) Innovation Center can be better utilized to advance discovery and economic development through short-term leasing to external researchers; and under-utilized campus spaces may be transformed through leases to relevant scientific and entrepreneurial start-ups. Rather than solely creating a designated innovation campus, K-State seeks to intentionally integrate innovation and partnerships across campus to promote university–industry collaboration, applied learning opportunities, and advancement of our teaching, research, and extension mission.

The K-REC entity will be governed by the university administrators already responsible for related university enterprises—including leadership from administration and finance, external engagement and research—which ensures university control while placing relevant industry partners in proximity to K-State scholars and learners, enhancing operational efficiency and optimizing space use across the campuses. Each sub-lease will require approval from university administrators regarding terms and conditions in alignment with K-State's master leasing guidelines and appropriateness of use.

Act on Request to Approve Technical Certificate B and AAS in Electrician, MATC

Background

Community and technical colleges submit requests for new certificates and degree programs utilizing forms approved by Board staff. Criteria addressed during the application process include but are not limited to the following: program description, demand for the program, duplication of existing programs, faculty requirements, costs and funding, and program approval at the institution level.

I. General Information and Program Identification

Program Title	Electrician
Degree Level(s) and Credit Hours	Technical Certificate B/34 credit hours, and Associate of Applied Science/61 credit hours
Responsible Department or Unit	Kerri Belamy, Chief Academic officer
CIP Code	46.0302 Electrician
SOC Code	47-2111 Electricians
Industry-Recognized Certifications	Journey Worker Licensure Exam, OSHA 10
Clinical Sites/Work-Based Learning	Two work experience courses are required, and multiple business and industry partners are committed to capacity.
Number of Projected Enrollments	Year 1: 12 Year 2: 24 Year 3: 24
Accrediting Body Approval Status	NA
Aligned Program Status	Yes
Proposed Implementation	Fall 2026

II. Program Rationale and Information

Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC) explained that while the Electrician program has been requested by regional industry partners for several years, MATC can now launch this program due in large part to the opening of MATC’s new building, which provides the space and infrastructure needed for training. Employer engagement and financial stability have increased in recent years as well, and MATC has been able to recruit the qualified faculty required.

This program has undergone the process of Program Alignment at the system level, and MATC indicated it intends to meet the statewide program alignment. A degree map was provided in the application, and this program consists of a single pathway or track. A letter of support was included from Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 as the program will be offered to high school students.

III. Program Demand – Note: High Demand/High Wage occupation, 2025 Kansas Occupational Employment Demand listing.

A. Source: Kansas Department of Labor Long-term Occupation Projections 2022-2032 for 47-2111

Occupational Demand Ranking	65 of 796
Annual change in employment:	.9%
Annual median wage:	\$61,830
Annual openings:	642
Typical education for occupation entry:	High school diploma or equivalent and apprenticeship

B. Source: Lightcast Job Postings: November 2024 – November 2025 for the state of Kansas

Total postings:	1,240 Total, (450unique)
Annual median advertised salary:	\$75,000

Removing job postings with no education level listed, 87% of postings indicate a high school diploma or GED as the minimum education for entry in the occupation. (Including job postings with no education level listed, 2,425 total postings (1,005 unique) were reported, with an advertised salary of \$69,000, and 55% of the job postings listed no education level requirement for entry.)

MATC explained that the Electrical occupation area was identified on the most recent Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) as a program with too few concentrators, with 43 concentrators for 107 job openings.

Four letters of support for the proposed program were received from Torgeson Electric, Economy Electric Inc., Stanion Wholesale Electric Co., and Heineken Electric. Supports and commitments for the program include interviewing graduates for available positions, facility tours, donations, and apprenticeships.

IV. Duplication of Existing Programs and Collaboration

Currently 12 institutions offer this program based on CIP code and/or program title. Below are the colleges, programs, total number of concentrators, total number of graduates, total number of graduates exiting the higher education system and employed, and average wage of graduates who exited the higher education system and are employed information from the 2024 K-TIP report, which includes only technical programs in two-year postsecondary institutions.

Kansas Training Information Program						
2024 K-TIP Electrician 46.0302						
CIP Code	Program Name	Institution	Total # Concentrators	Total # Graduates	Total # Graduates Exited & Employed	Average Wage: Graduates Exited & Employed
46.0302	Electrician	Butler Community College	10	20	^	^
46.0302	Electrician	Coffeyville Community College	9	8	6	\$29,696
46.0302	Electrician	Dodge City Community College	14	^	^	^
46.0302	Electrician	Fort Hays Tech North Central	57	26	23	\$55,144
46.0302	Electrician	Fort Hays Tech Northwest	34	33	16	\$40,593
46.0302	Electrician	Highland Community College	23	7	6	\$59,491
46.0302	Electrician	Hutchinson Community College	10	^	^	^
46.0302	Electrician	Johnson County Community College	118	61	39	\$53,991
46.0302	Electrician	Kansas City Kansas Community College	84	30	18	\$36,160
46.0302	Electrician	Neosho County Community College	31	5	^	^
46.0302	Electrician	Salina Area Technical College	11	8	^	^
46.0302	Electrician	Washburn Institute of Technology	76	52	30	\$32,856
Total			477	247	152	\$46,347

(^) small cell protection applied.

MATC explained that it reached out to collaborate with Salina Area Technical College, Fort Hays Tech | Northwest, and Highland Community College, and planned campus tours at Fort Hays Tech | Northwest and North Central in November.

V. Cost and Funding for Proposed Program

The college estimates the initial cost of the proposed program at \$192,200 total. Funding sources include the general fund and state grant funding.

Equipment:	\$100,000
Tools/Supplies:	\$20,000
Instructional Supplies/Technology:	\$2,500
Facility requirements/modifications:	\$5,000
Faculty:	\$64,700 for one new, full-time faculty member

Act on Request to Approve a Technical Certificate B in Medical Assistant, Washburn Tech

Background

Community and technical colleges submit requests for new certificates and degree programs utilizing forms approved by Board staff. Criteria addressed during the application process include but are not limited to the following: program description, demand for the program, duplication of existing programs, faculty requirements, costs and funding, and program approval at the institution level.

I. General Information and Program Identification

Program Title	Medical Assistant
Degree Level(s) and Credit Hours	Technical Certificate B/38 credit hours
Responsible Department or Unit	Dr. Pam Masters, Assistant Dean Health Occupations
CIP Code	51.0801 Medical/Clinical Assistant
SOC Code	31-9092 Medical Assistants
Industry-Recognized Certifications	Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) through National Healthcare Association (NHA)
Clinical Sites/Work-Based Learning	Two practicum courses are required for a total of 180 hours, existing clinical site partnerships are committed to capacity.
Number of Projected Enrollments	Year 1: 28 Year 2: 40 Year 3: 40
Accrediting Body Approval Status	NA – Not being sought
Aligned Program Status	Yes
Proposed Implementation	Fall 2026

II. Program Rationale and Information

Washburn University Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech) explained that the need for this program was identified due to being a high demand occupation in the northeast Kansas region with Highland Community College being the only institution currently offering the program in the area.

This program has undergone the process of Program Alignment at the system level, and Washburn Tech indicated they intend to continue to meet the statewide alignment. A degree map was provided in the application, and this program consists of a single pathway or track. Letters of support were included from Burlingame USD 454, Topeka Public Schools, Seaman USD 345 as the program will be offered to high school students.

III. Program Demand – Note: High Demand occupation, 2025 Kansas Occupational Employment Demand listing.

A. Source: Kansas Department of Labor Long-term Occupation Projections 2022-2032 for 31-9092

Occupational Demand Ranking	53 of 796
Annual change in employment:	1.2%
Annual median wage:	\$39,090
Annual openings:	707
Typical education for occupation entry:	Postsecondary non-degree award and no on-the-job training

B. Source: Lightcast Job Postings: December 2024 – December 2025 for the state of Kansas

Total postings:	3,495 Total, (1,292 unique)
Annual median advertised salary:	\$44,700

Removing job postings with no education level listed, 77% of postings indicate a high school diploma or GED as the minimum education for entry in the occupation. (Including job postings with no education level listed, 6,602 total postings (2,070 unique) were reported, with an advertised salary of \$43,100, and 48% of the job postings listed high school diploma or GED as the education requirement for entry.)

Washburn Tech explained that the FY25-26 Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) for the Topeka region identified Medical Assistant as a program with “too few concentrators for the job openings”, with 28 concentrators for 150 annual openings.

Three letters of support for the proposed program were received from the Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Stormont-Vail Health, and the University of Kansas Health System. Supports and commitments for the program include interviewing graduates for available positions, providing clinical site opportunities, and serving on the advisory committee.

IV. Duplication of Existing Programs and Collaboration

Currently seven institutions offer this program based on CIP code and/or program title. Below are the colleges, programs, total number of concentrators, total number of graduates, total number of graduates exiting the higher education system and employed, and average wage of graduates who exited the higher education system and are employed information from the 2024 K-TIP report, which includes only technical programs in two-year postsecondary institutions.

Kansas Training Information Program						
2024 K-TIP Medical/Clinical Assistant 51.0801						
CIP Code	Program Name	Institution	Total # Concentrators	Total # Graduates	Total # Graduates Exited & Employed	Average Wage: Graduates Exited & Employed
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Barton Community College	25	^	16	\$41,967
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Coffeyville Community College	7	^	^	^
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Fort Hays Tech Northwest	7	7	^	^
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Garden City Community College	7	^	^	^
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Highland Community College	27	11	10	\$38,365
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Kansas City Kansas Community College	55	14	7	\$26,934
51.0801	Medical/Clinical Assistant	Neosho County Community College	13	^	^	^
Total			141	38	25	\$31,759

(^) small cell protection applied.

Washburn Tech explained that they connected with Highland Community College and Barton Community College to collaborate on their specific offerings in this program.

V. Cost and Funding for Proposed Program

The college estimates the initial cost of the proposed program at \$98,790 in total. Funding sources include the general fund.

Equipment:	\$5,000
Instructional Supplies/Technology:	\$5,000
Facility Modifications/Renovations:	\$3,500
Professional Development:	\$3,200
Faculty:	\$78,090 for new, full-time faculty, and \$4,000 for existing adjunct part-time faculty

Act on New Promise Act Programs, Electrician, MATC

Background

Administration is broken into three categories: rules and regulations, eligible programs, and other responsibilities.

Per statutory language (K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,271(b)(4) and K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(c)(1)(B)), a “promise eligible program” means any two-year associate degree program or career and technical education certificate or stand-alone program offered by an eligible postsecondary educational institution that is:

- a) approved by the Board of Regents;
- b) high wage, high demand, or critical need; and
- c) identified as a “promise eligible program” by the Board of Regents pursuant to K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272, within any of the following fields of study:
 - Information Technology and Security
 - Mental and Physical Healthcare
 - Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades
 - Early Childhood Education and Development

K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(a) states an eligible postsecondary educational institution may designate an additional field of study to meet local employment needs if the promise eligible programs within this field are two-year associate degree programs or career and technical education certificate and stand-alone programs approved by the Board of Regents that correspond to jobs that are high wage, high demand, or critical need in the community from one of the following fields:

- Agriculture;
- Food and Natural Resources;
- Education and Training;
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; or
- Distribution, Logistics, and Transportation

K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(d) states that the Board of Regents may designate an associate degree transfer program as an eligible program only if such program is included in:

- a) An established 2+2 agreement with a Kansas four-year postsecondary education institution; or
- b) An articulation agreement with a Kansas four-year postsecondary educational institution and is part of an established degree pathway that allows a student to transfer at least sixty credit hours from the eligible from the eligible postsecondary educational institution to a four-year postsecondary education institution for the completion of an additional sixty credit hours toward a bachelor’s degree.

Recommendation

The following program is seeking approval to become Promise Act eligible programs. The program has been reviewed by the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and is recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents:

- Manhattan Area Technical College: Electrician (46.0302) falls under the Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades category specified in legislation. SOC 47-2111 for Electricians was identified as a High Wage occupation on the 2025 High Demand Occupations list from the Kansas Department of Labor.

Act on New Promise Act Program, Medical Assistant, Washburn Tech**Background**

Administration is broken into three categories: rules and regulations, eligible programs, and other responsibilities.

Per statutory language (K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,271(b)(4) and K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(c)(1)(B)), a “promise eligible program” means any two-year associate degree program or career and technical education certificate or stand-alone program offered by an eligible postsecondary educational institution that is:

- a) approved by the Board of Regents;
- b) high wage, high demand, or critical need; and
- c) identified as a “promise eligible program” by the Board of Regents pursuant to K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272, within any of the following fields of study:
 - Information Technology and Security
 - Mental and Physical Healthcare
 - Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades
 - Early Childhood Education and Development

K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(a) states an eligible postsecondary educational institution may designate an additional field of study to meet local employment needs if the promise eligible programs within this field are two-year associate degree programs or career and technical education certificate and stand-alone programs approved by the Board of Regents that correspond to jobs that are high wage, high demand, or critical need in the community from one of the following fields:

- Agriculture;
- Food and Natural Resources;
- Education and Training;
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; or
- Distribution, Logistics, and Transportation

K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(d) states that the Board of Regents may designate an associate degree transfer program as an eligible program only if such program is included in:

- a) An established 2+2 agreement with a Kansas four-year postsecondary education institution; or
- b) An articulation agreement with a Kansas four-year postsecondary educational institution and is part of an established degree pathway that allows a student to transfer at least sixty credit hours from the eligible from the eligible postsecondary educational institution to a four-year postsecondary education institution for the completion of an additional sixty credit hours toward a bachelor’s degree.

Recommendation

The following programs are seeking approval to become Promise Act eligible programs. The programs have been reviewed by the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and are recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents:

- Washburn University Institute of Technology: Medical Assistant (51.0801) falls under the Mental and Physical Healthcare category specified in legislation. SOC 31-9092 for Medical Assistants was identified as a High Demand occupation on the 2025 High Demand Occupations list from the Kansas Department of Labor.

Act on Excel in Career Technical Education Fees for Technical Certification in Medical Assistant, Washburn Tech

Background

K.S.A 72-3810 states: “All tuition and fees charged for career technical education by any board shall be in such amounts as are authorized by rules and regulations adopted by the state board which shall establish general guidelines for tuition and fee schedules in career technical education courses and programs. The tuition and fee schedule of every career technical education program shall be subject to annual approval of the state board. A current complete schedule of tuition and fees for each career technical education course and program of each board as approved by the state board shall be maintained on file in the office of the state board and shall be open for public inspection at any reasonable time.”

"Fees means those charges assessed against a student by a community college, technical college or the institute of technology for student services, such as health clinics, athletic activities and technology services, or for books, supplies or other materials necessary for a particular course or program, the expense of which is not covered by tuition."

"Tuition means those charges assessed against a student by a community college, technical college or the institute of technology on a per credit hour, per course or per term basis, and that are charged to cover the general expense of providing instructional services."

As per the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority’s (TEA) request, on Thursday, December 19, 2019, representatives from community colleges, technical colleges, and Board staff met to set guidelines for fees associated with Excel in CTE courses and programs. As a result of this meeting, agreed upon allowable fees include items/services students take with them and industry-specific fees required for entrance/acceptance into the program.

Allowable fees include:

- Uniforms
- Personal protective equipment
- Background checks
- Fingerprints
- Drug tests
- E-subscriptions/E-books
- Textbooks
- Printing fees for textbooks/E-books
- Certification tests
- Membership fees for certifying bodies
- Liability insurance (example: student malpractice)
- Graduation fees (if applicable)
- Transcript fees (if applicable)
- Student Software Licenses
- Professional Equipment/Kits/Tools students purchase

Unallowable fees include:

- Student fees (general)
- Technology fees
- Health fees
- Consumable project materials
- Program or Institution Application fees
- Lab Fees
- Equipment/tool maintenance, usage, replacement
- Rental (such as tools, books, or uniform/gear)
- Student kits
- Accuplacer or other placement tests
- Student ID
- Student organization memberships (such as Skills USA)
- Fees charged on a per credit-hour basis
- Any other fee not on the allowable list

Non-tiered courses - per statute (K.S.A. 71-1802) a technical program is defined as a “program of study comprised of a sequence of tiered technical courses and non-tiered courses, which is identified by the state board as a technical program for funding purposes.” For this reason, students enrolled in technical programs may take non-tiered courses and are responsible for all associated tuition and fees.

Recommendation

The Excel in CTE fees below have been reviewed by the Technical Education Authority and are recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents:

- Washburn University Institute of Technology: Total of 1,025.40 submitted for Excel in CTE fees. Itemized list of course and program fees is attached to this packet.

<i>Per statute (K.S.A. 72-3810), the Kansas Board of Regents shall establish general guidelines for tuition and fee schedules in career technical education courses and programs. The Excel in CTE tuition and fee schedule of every technical education program shall be subject to annual approval.</i>		
<i>Please include all costs charged to high school students for the proposed new program.</i>		
Institution Name:	Washburn University Institute of Technology	
Program Title:	Medical Assistant	
Program CIP Code:	51.0801	
<i>Please list all fees associated with this program: Only list costs the institution is charging students.</i>		
Fee	Short Description	Amount
	Patches & Nametags	\$23.00
	CCMA Study Guide & Practice Tests	\$82.33
	CCMA Certification Exam	\$144.52
	MA Skills Builder Clinical Plus eBook	\$112.99
	MA Skills Builder Administrative Plus eBook	\$112.99
	Personal Ability eBook	\$70.07
<i>Please list all courses within the program and any fees associated to those courses: Only list costs the institution is charging students. Do not duplicate expenses.</i>		
Course ID	Short Description	Amount
HCT 160 & HCT 164 Phlebotomy & Lab	Phlebotomy Textbooks	\$150.00
HCT 160 & HCT 164 Phlebotomy & Lab	Lab Fee	\$75.00
HCT 105 First Aid & CPR	First Aid & CPR Registration	\$40.00
<i>Please list items the students will need to purchase on their own for this program: Institution is not charging students these costs, rather students are expected to have these items for the program.</i>		
Item	Short Description	Estimated Amount
	Scrubs	\$100.00
	Verified Credentials	\$114.50
TOTAL FEES		\$1,025.40

Act on the Reclassification of Courses from Tiered to Non-Tiered Status

Background

Senate Bill 143, enacted during the 2011 Legislative Session, established a new postsecondary technical education formula to be used for technical education (tiered technical education state aid) and for “transfer”, “general education”, and general instruction credit hours (non-tiered course credit hour grant). During the 2012 Legislative Session, SB 155 was enacted providing state funded college tuition for high school students in postsecondary tiered technical education courses and incentives to school districts for students earning industry-recognized credentials in high demand occupations. The KBOR Instructional Cost Model calculates costs at a course level and recognizes the cost differential in delivering technical education courses for all state funding line items.

When the Instructional Cost Model was developed, K.S.A. 71-1802 definitions were used to designate each program course as “Tiered” or “Non-Tiered”:

“(f) “Non-tiered course” means any postsecondary credit-bearing course offered by an eligible institution and identified by the state board as not meeting the definition of a tiered technical course. Non-tiered courses include courses that are generally designed to:

- (1) Contribute to academic knowledge or skills across multiple disciplines and occupations, such as communication, writing, mathematics, humanities, social or behavioral science and natural or physical science courses, some of which may be considered for transfer as general education credit toward a baccalaureate degree;*
- (2) contribute to general knowledge or skills in areas such as critical thinking and reasoning, problem solving, use of technology and teamwork skills;*
- (3) provide instruction in basic or foundational skills necessary for individuals to effectively participate in technical programs;*
- (4) prepare individuals for certification or licensure exams or re-certifications and skill updates; or*
- (5) allow individuals to explore various career opportunities. Seminars, workshops, or other courses that are supplemental to the primary instruction required for the occupationally specific technical program shall be considered non-tiered courses, unless otherwise specified by the state board.*

“(j) “Tiered technical course” means

- a postsecondary credit-bearing course,*
- included in the sequence of courses comprising a technical program,*
- which course is itself designed to provide competency-based applied instruction to prepare individuals with occupationally specific knowledge and skills necessary for employment, and*
- which the state board has identified as a tiered technical course.”*

All courses in the system were reviewed during the implementation of the Kansas Higher Education Data System (KHEDS) for designation as “Tiered” or “Non-Tiered” based on the information available at the time. Additional review of Tiered courses was initiated in 2014 by the TEA Tier/Non-Tier Course Reclassification Subcommittee, which was formed due to concerns identified by the Process Management Committee (PMC) after the inception of Excel in CTE (SB155). The charge to the subcommittee from the TEA in May 2014 was the review, validation and update of all tiered course designations based on the existing framework, to move tiered courses to non-tiered status where there was consensus and/or the course clearly aligned with the non-tiered criteria, and for any courses lacking consensus or clear alignment with criteria was to be presented to the TEA for consideration.

While all relevant criteria were noted, courses meeting *at least one criterion* on the statute matrix (example below) were recommended to be moved from tiered to non-tiered status. In February 2015, the TEA reviewed and approved over 40 courses to be reassigned from Tiered to Non-Tiered status based upon review of the statute.

T/NT Course Status Review (First Round)

2/2/2015

Tiered Courses to be moved to Non-Tiered Status

Current Bucket	#	Bucket/Course Description	New Bucket #	Transfer Gen.Ed to university	Required Gen.Ed for associate degrees	Can fulfill Gen.Ed. requirement	Academic knowledge/skill delivered in applied manner	Knowledge/Skill for college student across disciplines	Basic/foundational skill for Tech program participation	Supplemental to primary instruction for occupationally specific tech program	Knowledge/Skill occupationally specific & necessary for employment	Notes
	2	A&P	42--Non-Tier	X	X	X			X		No	often pre-req
	539	Substance Abuse Awareness	42--Non-Tier			X					No	soc/behavSci
	360	Bloodborn Pathogens	42--Non-Tier							X	No	ConEd
	468	Business Communications	42--Non-Tier			X	X	X			No	Communic
	364	Intro to Criminal Justice	42--Non-Tier			X					No	soc/behavSci
	175	Criminology/Criminal Behavior	42--Non-Tier			X					No	soc/behavSci
	104	Juvenile Delinquency	42--Non-Tier			X					No	soc/behavSci
	25	Constitutional /Criminal/Intro to Law	42--Non-Tier			X					No	soc/behavSci
	154	Computer Apps	42--Non-Tier	X	X	X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	288	Computer Apps/For	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	524	Computer Apps/Integrated	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	471	Computer Apps/Internet	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	289	Computer Apps/MAC	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	630	Computer Apps/Presentation	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	542	Computer Apps/Spreadsheet/Excel	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	441	Computer Apps/Windows	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	328	Computer Apps/Word	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	332	Desktop Publishing	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X		No	Comp/Technolog
	30	Outlook	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X	X	No	Comp/Technolog
	442	Computer Info Systems (Intro)	42--Non-Tier			X					No	Comp/Technolog
	241	Computer Science (Intro)	42--Non-Tier			X					No	Comp/Technolog
	155	CPR/First Aid	42--Non-Tier			X		X	X	X	No	Health/Well/prereq

After the Subcommittee conducted further course reviews and assessment of the appeal process, the second round of changes were implemented effectively in AY2017.

The Course Bucket Review Process initiated in 2023 has identified courses which

- are utilized consistently as general education course offerings within technical and transfer programs, indicating
 - o academic knowledge or skills across multiple disciplines and occupations, and
 - o general knowledge or skills, and
 - o demonstration of foundational knowledge applicable across multiple academic disciplines and occupations, and
- are Kansas Regents Shared Number (KRSN) courses identified for Systemwide Transfer by the majority of two-year institutions, and
- do not include competencies or activities demonstrating applied instruction.

Therefore, these courses cannot be accurately assigned to a single program based upon use by each institution within multiple programs.

Recommendation

The following recommendations have been reviewed by the Technical Education Authority and are recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents:

1. The following courses are moved from Tiered to Non-Tiered status based upon the statutory course definition effective AY2027:
 - A. Introduction to Business
 - B. Principles of Marketing
 - C. Principles of Management
2. Resume the process to review, validate and reclassify tiered course designations based on the existing framework, moving tiered courses to non-tiered status where the course clearly aligns with the non-tiered criteria and that any courses lacking clear alignment with criteria be presented to the TEA for consideration.

Act on Appointment to Board Committee

Chair Benson has discussed committee service with recently appointed Regent Peter Johnston. Chair Benson is recommending Regent Johnston as his replacement on BAASC. The proposed appointment outlined below is submitted for Board approval.

Committee	Regent	Start	End
Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee	Peter Johnston	3/1/2026	6/30/2026

Receive Pillar III University Reports

The final pillar of *Building a Future* focuses on advancing Kansas's economic prosperity through the efforts of public higher education institutions. It emphasizes the indirect benefits of higher education on the state's economy and aims to make universities intentional partners in economic development. The Kansas Board of Regents will formally measure and support these efforts, encouraging universities to integrate economic development into their institutional plans.

Each university will focus on strategies tailored to their unique strengths, including partnerships with the private sector, business attraction and creation, innovation districts, and entrepreneurial initiatives. Progress will be tracked using two main dashboard metrics:

1. **Family Sustaining Jobs Created** – new, well-paying jobs (at least 250% of the federal poverty level) generated through university partnerships.
2. **Capital Investment Generated** – private investment in Kansas resulting from university-driven economic development.

Additional efforts such as business expansion, attraction, and formation will also be monitored. While approaches will vary across institutions, all will contribute to a unified state-level strategy aimed at economic growth.

The University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University will give their reports today. The remaining Universities will give reports in future months.

Discuss Board Member Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement and Act on Actual or Apparent Conflicts

Background

Board of Regents policy governing Board member conflicts of interest calls for disclosure of certain transactional interests, memberships and affiliations at the time of taking office and subsequently as the need arises, and provides that the Board will review the disclosures and make participation determinations in accordance with prescribed guidelines.

Regent Peter Johnston's disclosure form was reviewed by Board's general counsel and will be reviewed by the Governance Committee at the Committee's March 11, 2026, meeting. A summary of the disclosures is provided below.

In accordance with Board policy, the Board is to now:

- Include the reported interests in the minutes of a Board meeting;
- with regard to each reported membership or affiliation on a governing board or affiliated corporation, make a determination regarding the permissibility of serving in such capacity; and
- with regard to each contract or transaction, direct the involved Regent to excuse himself from participating on behalf of the Board in actions involving that contract or transaction.

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"(i) If an independent observer, having knowledge of all the relevant circumstances, would reasonably conclude that the Board member has an actual or apparent conflict of interest in holding such a position, the Board member should not accept or retain the position;

"(ii) If, however, involvement by the Board member would bring compelling benefit to the institution, the Board may approve such involvement subject to any conditions the Board deems appropriate to assure both propriety and the appearance of propriety."

The reported and known memberships and affiliations to be reviewed by the Board pursuant to the above-quoted provision, along with a description of the entity or activity and rationale to approve continued service of Regent Peter Johnston in this capacity, are as follows:

Regent Peter Johnston reported service on the *governing* board of a non-controlled affiliated corporation of an institution that is governed by the Board:

- Regent Peter Johnston serves as a Trustee of the KU Endowment Association, a non-controlled affiliated corporation of the University of Kansas.

Staff recommends approving Regent Peter Johnston's continued service as a Trustee of the KU Endowment Association. Service on the board of an affiliated corporation that exists to raise and manage funds for its respective educational institution is generally in line with the Board's mission and goals, would be unlikely to constitute an actual conflict of interest, and is more likely to be beneficial to an institution than potentially harmful to the Board or the System. Regent Peter Johnston's continued service on this body should be

conditioned on Regent Peter Johnston recognizing that his duty is first and foremost to the Kansas Board of Regents and that if any actual conflict does arise, he will take appropriate action to manage or remedy the conflict.

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Regent Peter Johnston is a shareholder in his law firm, which has client relationships with Salina Regional Health Center, Salina Regional Health Foundation, Salina Airport Authority and the City of Salina. Those clients have various contractual relationships with Regents institutions. Additionally, Regent Peter Johnston’s spouse is a part-time paid faculty member at the KU School of Medicine’s Salina campus.

Staff recommend directing Regent Peter Johnston to excuse himself from participating on behalf of the Board in matters involving or related to any contract or transaction between his law firm’s clients and any educational institution governed, coordinated or regulated by the Board, and any matters impacting or relating to his spouse’s employment at KU School of Medicine’s Salina campus.



Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) Meeting

Kansas Board of Regents

Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, Kansas,
66612

2026-03-11 10:45 - 12:00 CDT

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I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 11, 2026.....3

III. Board Consent Agenda Items

IV. Board Discussion Agenda Items

A. AY 2026 Program Review- WSU.....5

Presenters: Sam Christy-Dangermond, Monica Lounsbery

Board policy requires the universities and the Board to maintain a program review cycle and a review process that will allow the universities to demonstrate that they are delivering quality programs consistent with their mission. In June of 2023, the Board approved changes to the KBOR program review process, requiring each state university to review all undergraduate and graduate degree programs on the following schedule. Year one (2025): Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and the University of Kansas Medical Center; Year two (2026): Wichita State University; Year three (2027): Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, and Pittsburg State University. This paper reflects WSU's Program Review for 2026. Board Staff recommends acceptance of WSU's Program Review Report and approval of the recommendations.

V. Other Matters

A. AY 2025 Program Review Follow-Up- KSU.....11

Presenters: Sam Christy-Dangermond, Jesse Mendez

Board policy requires that “in cooperation with the universities, the Board will maintain a program review cycle and a review process that will allow the universities to demonstrate that they are delivering quality programs consistent with their mission.” In June of 2023, the Board approved changes to the KBOR program review process. For AY 2025, Kansas State University (KSU) was required to review all programs. As a result, the Board approved placing one program on an action plan and two programs to be phased out and merged. KSU is providing information on these programs today, as well as two programs the Board approved to place on action plans from the AY 2024 Program Review. Additional background on this process is included below. Board staff recommend approval of the recommendations.

B. Reduced-Credit Baccalaureate Degree Update

Presenters: Jennifer Bonds-Raacke

C. Building a Future in Corequisite Innovation: A Systemwide Faculty Leadership

Initiative

Presenters: Jennifer Bonds-Raacke

D. Academic Affairs Updates

Presenters: Jennifer Bonds-Raacke

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Alysia Johnston at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The meeting was held at the Board office, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 520, Topeka, Kansas. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regent Alysia Johnston, Chair
 Regent Pamela Ammar
 Regent Diana Mendoza

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

Regent Ammar moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026 meeting. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Other Matters

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..

Regent Ammar asked if the report was new, or if it was replacing a different report. Director Christy-Dangermond clarified that institutions are asked to provide a report every year, but the report aligns with the Board-approved Performance Agreement, and reflects full implementation of the new Math and English initiatives for AY 2027. If an institution receives full points, they are recommended for 100% of any new funding from the legislature.

Regent Mendoza asked if there was a guide to indicate the components required to be listed on the course schedule. Director Christy-Dangermond responded that all requirements for the report are listed in the rubric, but there is no requirement specifying which components must be included in each institution’s course schedule. If any information is missing, Director Christy-Dangermond will work with the institution directly to give them every opportunity to include any missing information from the report.

Regent Ammar asked if the provosts had provided input on the rubric. Director Christy-Dangermond responded that the rubrics were designed based on their input from the first year of the three-year agreement and was presented to provosts at the SCOCOA meeting earlier that day. Provosts Barbara Bichelmeyer (University of Kansas,) Jill Arensdorf (Fort Hays State University,) Susan Bon (Pittsburg State University,) and Jesse Mendez (Kansas State University) expressed their support for the rubric as presented.

Regent Mendoza moved to approve the rubric. Regent Ammar seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Academic Affairs Updates

Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bonds-Raacke highlighted the work of the SGA leaders at Higher Education Day on February 4 and their efforts to align priorities across campuses and to ensure their advocacy was connected to KBOR's broader priorities including financial aid for all students in Kansas. Prior to Higher Education Day, SGA leaders received advocacy training from their institutions and from graduate students at Fort Hays State University.

Next, Vice President Bonds-Raacke shared that Academic Affairs staff at KBOR is working with the Data, Research, and Planning team as well as university CAOs to build a data collection system in alignment with the recently approved workload, tenure, and post-tenure policies.

Vice President Bonds-Raacke also noted that we are concluding the third and final year of the current performance agreement cycle. In the coming months, BAASC will need to discuss a bridge agreement for AY 2027, which would allow the incoming Board president the opportunity to help shape the next three-year cycle. Lastly, Vice President Bonds-Raacke shared that Kansas has been selected to participate in SHEEO's Holistic Advising for Student Success initiative. This work will help to strengthen advising, align efforts with state priorities, and build cross-sector collaboration.

Adjournment

Chair Johnston adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.



Fiscal Affairs & Audit Standing Committee (FAA)

Kansas Board of Regents

Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, Kansas,
66612

2026-03-11 10:15 - 11:45 CDT

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I. Call To Order

Presenters: Regent Dicus, Chair

II. Old Business

A. Approve Minutes from February 11, 2026 Meeting.....3

B. Follow up on Issues Raised During Agenda Call

III. New Business

A. Receive Internal Audit Plans

Presenters: Cate Neeley, KU/KUMC

Chris Cavanaugh, WSU

Tammy Norman, ESU

B. FAA 26-04 Review State Universities' Annual Financial Reports, including

Composite Financial Index and Current Year Budget Status Relative to Plan

Presenters: Ethan Erickson, KSU

David Miller, WSU

Jeff DeWitt, KU/KUMC

C. FAA 26-05 Receive Debt Capacity Plans for State Universities and Assess

Universities' Indebtedness

Presenters: Jim MacMurray, Kansas Development Finance Authority

D. Review Board Agenda Items Under Fiscal Affairs

E. Receive Update on FY 2027 Unified Appropriations Request

IV. Standing Topics

A. FAA 26-08 Monitor Progress on Kansas Campus Restoration Act

B. FAA 26-09 Review Audit Findings

V. Future Committee Meetings

Tuesday, March 31 - 12:15pm, Committee Meeting for First Read of FY 2027 Johnson County Education Research Triangle Budgets (KSU Olathe, KU Edwards, KUMC)

April - No Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 5 - 12:15pm, Agenda Planning Conference Call

Wednesday, May 20 - 10:15am, Committee Meeting, Board Office, Topeka

explained how the CFI score is calculated, and demonstrated how the index provides a clearer, consolidated view of financial performance over time to inform strategic and operational decision-making.

Regent Crocker asked for clarification on the purpose of the industry factors and weights used in the Composite Financial Index, given its application across higher education. Mr. Hunter explained that the CFI methodology is established through an industry-standard framework detailed in published guidance and is designed to ensure uniformity and comparability across institutions. The industry factors and weights are fixed and applied consistently to all universities; they do not vary by institution. Differences in CFI results arise solely from each institution's underlying financial data and ratio performance, ensuring standardized analysis while allowing for institution-specific outcomes.

Regent Parasker asked for clarification on the weighting of the CFI ratios, noting that the primary reserve and viability ratios carry greater weight than the net operating ratio and return on net assets, and questioned the emphasis placed on the viability ratio. Mr. Hunter explained that the primary reserve ratio reflects an institution's operational capacity, while the viability ratio assesses the institution's ability to support its current debt load. Both ratios are weighed equally to balance operational sustainability with debt capacity, recognizing that debt can be a strategic tool when managed appropriately and does not mature uniformly. It was acknowledged that the viability ratio is more fluid and context-dependent, emphasizing the importance of considering institutional strategy and mission when interpreting its impact on overall financial health.

Regent Wolfe Moore asked whether CFI scores should be used to compare Kansas universities directly. Mr. Hunter explained that while CFI results may be reviewed collectively, they should not be interpreted in isolation or used to rank institutions against one another, as each university's financial strategy, resource needs, and programmatic challenges differ. The discussion emphasized evaluating CFI results alongside non-financial indicators to understand institutional context. Regent Wolfe Moore also asked how a declining or lower CFI may disadvantage an institution competitively. It was noted that external stakeholders, such as grant-making organizations and funding agencies, may view lower or declining CFI scores as higher risk, potentially affecting the institution's ability to compete for grants, awards, and other funding opportunities.

Regent Crocker asked about the appropriate timeframe for analyzing CFI trends when informing long-term decisions. Mr. Hunter advised that industry practice typically considers a five- to ten-year trend to provide sufficient historical context and reduce the impact of short-term volatility. The discussion noted that CFI results can fluctuate significantly due to external factors beyond institutional control, such as market-driven investment gains or losses, reinforcing the importance of evaluating CFI performance over an extended period rather than relying on single-year results.

FAA 26-04 Review State Universities' Annual Financial Reports & Current Year Budget Status Relative to Plan

Wesley Wintch, Vice President for Administration and Finance at Fort Hays State University, presented their mid-year financial overview, highlighting revenue, enrollment, expenditures, debt, and financial position. Approximately 33% of the budget derives from the State General Fund, 20% from tuition, 21% from restricted fees, and the remainder from federal, auxiliary, and other sources. Enrollment trends showed modest growth following prior declines, with Fiscal Year 2025 FTE students increasing by 1% and continued gains projected for Fiscal Year 2026; student retention improved to 77.1%, driven by growth in workforce-aligned programs such as nursing, allied health, and social work.

Tuition revenue remained heavily supported by online instruction, while on-campus enrollment growth positively affected credit hour production and auxiliary revenues. Expenditures remained aligned with budget, with compensation and benefits comprising approximately 60% of total costs; changes in scholarship expenditures reflect updated accounting standards rather than reduced support of students. The University reported declining debt levels, improved Moody's outlook from A1 negative to A1 stable, and a strengthened Composite Financial Index of 6.47, influenced in part by the two newly affiliated technical colleges. Staff emphasized affordability, improved student success outcomes, and strong regional partnerships as institutional strengths, while noting ongoing challenges related to enrollment headwinds, workforce competition, regulatory uncertainty, and the need for strategic investment to support future growth.

Regent Wolfe Moore asked about the potential impact of a reduction in regional stabilization funding and the likelihood of continued state support. Mr. Wintch reported that the future of the funding remains uncertain, though incorporation into the base budget could suggest continued support. Staff noted that the current proposal reflects a \$2.4 million reduction in state operating funds to Fort Hays, which would present a significant challenge and directly affect university operations. While the institution would work collaboratively to manage the impact, staff emphasized that the reduction would require careful planning and adjustments to navigate the loss of state support.

Angela Wolgram, Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer at Emporia State University reported that fall enrollment trends have shifted from declining to stabilizing, though headcount remains below peak levels. In-state resident students continue to comprise the majority of enrollment, while international enrollment has declined significantly, dropping from more than 500 students in 2013 to 44 currently. Annual credit hour production is evenly split between online and on-campus students, as defined by at least one in-person credit hour. Growth in the Jump Start high school concurrent enrollment program has doubled since last year, but these primarily part-time students contribute fewer credit hours overall. She also noted that prior reductions in degree requirements to 120 credit hours have contributed to lower credit production.

Chair Dicus asked about the possibility of better tracking the on-campus presence of students enrolled in online courses. Ms. Wolgram indicated that address data and identity management systems, including ID usage, may offer opportunities to more accurately document on-campus engagement, and interest was expressed in further exploring these options.

Ms. Wolgram reported the 20th-day census shows strong growth across the institution, with total headcount up over 6%, residential housing up 23%, and first-time undergraduate enrollment increasing nearly 30%. High school concurrent enrollment more than doubled, reflecting effective cross-campus alignment in recruitment, academics, and student support. Mid-year financials are tracking positively, with tuition revenue exceeding budget and expenses at appropriate mid-year levels. Strategic investments continue in instruction, student services, athletics, and scholarships, while tuition remains competitive among peers. Financial indicators are strong, debt has been reduced, and leadership noted positive momentum alongside continued attention to long-term funding and demographic challenges. Regent Parasker asked what their Moody's rating was, and Angela replied it was A1 stable.

Doug Ball, Vice President for Administration and CFO, Pittsburg State University, shared their updates. He reported stable overall enrollment on an FTE basis, with modest gains in headcount driven by strong undergraduate performance. New freshman enrollment increased for the fifth consecutive year, with a

significant gain in the most recent fall, strengthening overall undergraduate numbers. Graduate enrollment remains a challenge, though spring data showed the first year-over-year increase in new graduate students in several years, signaling early progress. Mid-year financials are tracking as planned, with revenues and expenditures slightly below typical mid-year levels due to project timing and disciplined spending, positioning the institution for a potential year-end surplus. Long-term financial trends reflect increased state support, tuition growth, and expanded grant funding, enabling continued investment in student success initiatives. Tuition remains highly competitive relative to KBOR and conference peers, strengthening market position. Financial indicators remain strong, debt service has declined significantly, and major capital projects continue to advance. Leadership highlighted ongoing challenges related to state funding, graduate enrollment, and competitive salaries, while noting strengths in freshman recruitment, student success efforts, and the positive institutional and regional impact of major capital investments.

Chair Dicus asked whether recent developments related to Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL), as presented by Division I athletic directors to the Legislature, have any current or anticipated impact on the three institutions presenting, and whether there are concerns moving forward regarding NIL's implications. Doug responded that NIL activity exists at the Division II level but at a much smaller scale than Division I and does not involve direct institutional funding of athletes, limiting its immediate financial impact. He noted, however, that Division II athletics face ongoing financial pressures related to maintaining competitiveness, requiring increased institutional investment. Athletics funding relies on a combination of university budget support, generated revenues, and donor contributions, and managing this multi-source funding model remains a continuing challenge, albeit at a different scale than Division I institutions.

Vice President Frisbie added that the Board previously conducted a multi-year review of student health and athletics support. The first year focused on student health centers and services, followed by a second-year review centered on student-athletes and how universities address their needs. That review was supported by an external consultant, the U.S. Council for Student Athlete Health, which provided campus-specific recommendations. Athletic departments have continued implementing those recommendations and reported progress in subsequent years, reflecting ongoing institutional attention to athletics, student well-being, and the university-athletics relationship.

Review Board Agenda Items Under Fiscal Affairs

The Committee reviewed Board agenda items under Fiscal Affairs, including four consent agenda items and one for discussion, with the Student Insurance Advisory Committee chair on the program's legislative authority, established in 2006, and the current ten-year contract with UnitedHealth Student Resources, bid in 2020. The committee, representing all six state universities including KUMC, unanimously recommended modest rate increases of 3.21% for Plan 1 and 3.23% for Plans 2, 3, and 4, reflecting higher claims experience, market conditions, prior year rate reductions, and enrollment considerations.

The Committee also recommended inclusion of the Healthiest U telehealth service at no additional cost to students or future rates. The proposed rates have been reviewed and approved by the Council of Business Officers and the Council of Presidents. Regent Parasker moved to this on to the full Board agenda, it was seconded by Regent Crocker, and the motion passed.

Receive Update on FY 2027 Unified Appropriations Request

Vice President Frisbie summarized current legislative budget actions affecting the higher education system, noting that the House largely adopted its budget committee recommendations and that

comparisons reflect the Board’s request, the Governor’s proposal, and House and Senate positions. A key concern is the House’s proposed \$2.3 million reduction to public university need-based aid, which could significantly reduce student awards.

Other highlights include general support for the instructional cost model for funding the two-year colleges’ state aid, continued discussion around Excel in CTE funding, and mixed support for student success initiatives and university projects. Current-year carryforward funds were largely subject to lapsing, though some student aid and literacy funding was restored. The Campus Restoration Act remains on track for full funding, and both chambers included FY 2028 financial aid appropriations for financial aid, providing a greater degree of certainty. The budget remains fluid, with further updates expected as the legislative process continues.

Standing Topics

Campus Restoration Act

Director Bristow noted that because the Board does not have an April meeting this year, universities are unable to present five-year capital plans for a first read on the usual schedule. He proposed shifting the first read to May, with Board approval in June, and requested endorsement to temporarily suspend Board policy to allow this one-month adjustment. Regent Crocker moved to approve the adjustment. The motion was seconded by Regent Parasker, and the motion passed. Director Bristow will communicate with staff at the campuses to explain the change in deadline.

Adjournment

Chair Dicus announced adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.



Board Governance Committee

Kansas Board of Regents

Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, Kansas,
66612

2026-03-11 09:00 - 10:00 CDT

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I. Call to Order

Presenters: Regent Benson, Chair

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 11, 2026 Meeting.....2

III. Discuss Board Member conflict of interest disclosure and make recommendations

to address any actual or perceived conflicts.....3

Presenters: John Yeary, General Counsel

IV. Receive State University Campus Security and IT report, PSU

Presenters: Stu Hite & Angela Neria

V. Executive Session

VI. Adjournment

Discuss Board Member Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement and Act on Actual or Apparent Conflicts**Background**

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System Council of Presidents (SCOPS)

Kansas Board of Regents

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

2026-03-11 10:30 - 11:00 CDT

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I. Call to Order

Presenters: President Knoettgen, Cloud Community College

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 11, 2026 Meeting.....2

III. Report from System Council of Chief Academic Officers

Presenters, Mickey, McCloud, Ph.D

IV. Other Matters

A. Legislative Update

Presenters: Fred Patton

V. Adjournment

System Council of Presidents Meeting Minutes

At 10:32 a.m. Interim President Taylor Kriley called the System Council of Presidents February 11, 2026, meeting to order at the Curtis State Office Building (CSOB), 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, KS 66612.

MEMBERS	Doug Girod, University of Kansas	Rick Muma, Wichita State University
PRESENT:	JuliAnn Mazachek, Washburn University	Rich Linton, Kansas State University
	Greg Nichols, Salina Tech	Taylor Kriley, Emporia State University
	Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University	Thomas Newsom, Pittsburg State University

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Newsom moved that the minutes of the January 14, 2026, meeting be approved. Following the second of President Muma, the motion carried.

REPORT FROM SYSTEM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS: Mickey McCloud, Executive Vice President/Provost Johnson County Community College

- TAAC update – Deadline for new systemwide transfer courses due March 1.
 - Subcommittee met on February 4th to look at systemwide associates degree framework.
- Report on Kansas Free Application Days – 2025 report is available.
 - Academic year 2027 is the last for the pilot program so working on how to institutionalize for the future.
 - Working on more engagement from Kansas high schools
 - This has been successful so far and we look forward to that continuing
- Academic Year Performance Report conversation around changing the agreement and having a bridge agreement for a year before jumping into a new one.
- Spring Break dates were discussed since the 2029, 2030, and 2031 calendars are being worked. These dates are to align with K-12 dates.
 - March 11-17, 2029
 - March 17-23, 2030
 - March 16-22, 2031

OTHER MATTERS

- There was a presentation on ReUp – engaging students with some college credits but no degree and the opportunity to work with community and technical colleges. K-State has a 3-year agreement in place.
 - There was a request for systemwide legislative financial support for the institutions that are currently not funded, so looking at the institutional level now.
- Legislative Update: Kelly Oliver
 - Update on bills currently in session.
 - HB 2428 – DEI-CRT bill scheduled for discussion and action to come today
 - HB 2487 – our requested bill that amends the Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship Program, recommended to be passed by House
 - HB 2523 – Affiliations bill had a hearing earlier this week and is scheduled to be worked by the House Higher Education Budget committee this afternoon
 - HB 2746 - regarding tenure – no hearing scheduled.
 - Provided a budget handout that was current as of the meeting time.

- Compares the Board's request, Governor's budget, the legislative special committee on budget's position, and the House and Senate positions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 by Chancellor Girod, seconded by President Newsom.



Council of Presidents (COPS)

Kansas Board of Regents

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

2026-03-11 11:00 - 11:30 CDT

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I. Call to Order

Presenters: President Baker, ESU

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III. Report from Council of Chief Academic Officers

Presenters: Brent Thomas, Ph.D

IV. Report from Council of Student Affairs Officers

Presenters: Taylor (TK) Kriley, Ed.D

V. Report from Council of Government Relations Officers

Presenters: Greg Schneider, Ph.D

VI. Report from Council for Research and Economic Development (CRED)

Presenters: Greg Scheider, Ph.D

VII. Report from Council of Chief Business Officers

Presenters: Angela Wolgram

VIII. Other Matters

IX. Adjournment

Council of Presidents Meeting Minutes

At 11:04 Interim President Taylor Kriley called the Council of Presidents February 11, 2026, meeting to order at the Curtis State Office Building (CSOB), 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, KS 66612.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Taylor Kriley, Emporia State University, Chair Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University
 Thomas Newsom, Pittsburg State University Rick Muma, Wichita State University
 Doug Girod, University of Kansas Rich Linton, Kansas State University

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Muma moved that the minutes of the January 14, 2026, meeting be approved. Following the second of President Newsom, the motion carried.

Act on Student Health Insurance Benefits and Premium Rates for Plan Year 2026-2027: Becky Pottebaum

- Committees met January 21 and presented rates of 3.21% and .23%. Were asked if we could go lower, they came back with the same rates but added telehealth services. If passed, this will go to Fiscal Affairs and the Board today.
- President Newsom moved to approve. President Muma seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS: Brent Thomas, Ph.D.

No report.

- BS in Financial Forensics was left on the COPS agenda from last month. Noted that this passed at the January meeting.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICERS: Sheila Markowitz

- There was a presentation from CDI regarding services around civic engagement and options for the system.
- Most of the meeting was spent preparing for roundtables with Regents this afternoon.
- Thank you to Presidents and the Board for the support to students and the work we do supporting student engagement for students to be successful in their careers and in society.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICERS & RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CRED): Greg Schneider, Ph.D.

- The budget discussions are going on right now in the House and Senate, working their two bills before they go to the floor next week.
- The House is cutting the budget for higher education more significantly than the Senate at this moment with about \$11 million in cuts, along with a transfer of a building from K-State to the Department of Administration (an accounting cut of about \$10 million). The Senate has increased higher ed spending to about \$20-30 million. Significant additions include \$5 million for KU (Alzheimer's), K-State (nuclear reactor) and WSU (hanger).
- Regional stabilization money was removed altogether (\$6.8 million for ESU and PSU) and \$7.4 million for FHSU. The Higher ed budget committee put \$5 million into operating money for each institution (amounting to a \$1.8 million cut for ESU and PSU and a \$2.4 million cut for FHSU). There was no love for this money once the decision was made to make it permanent. The Special Committee on the state budget discussed it for at least 30 minutes in November so the writing was on the wall for this as ongoing money. The common theme for Adam Turk and the Higher Education Budget committee is whether money which was meant for one-time should be ongoing. The answer to this is no.

- KBOR budget –major provisos and discussion (finished this morning)
- Other bills:
 - HB 2428—DEI mandates—being discussed and possible vote today in House Education
 - HB 2523—Steve Howe’s affiliation bill—Not moving forward.
 - HB 2746—omitting property right in tenure (Susan Humphries)—not scheduled yet but clean and simple bill that tenure is not a property right in Kansas. This would remove property rights for those already tenured as well as any from this point forward.
 - HB 2661—Pat Proctor bill on investments in higher education by foreign adversaries. Sent to House education; not scheduled yet for a hearing
 - SB 496—free speech and association training and materials for higher education in consultation with AG’s office—in Senate Education
 - HB 2743—House Education bill removing DEI from teacher preparation courses and from literacy programs
 -

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICERS: Taylor Kriley, Ed.D.

Handout provided by Angela Wolgram.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am by Chancellor Girod, seconded by President Linton.



System Council of Chief Academic Officers (SCOCAO)

Kansas Board of Regents

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

2026-03-11 08:30 - 09:30 CDT

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III. Systemwide Updates

A. TAAC Updates

Presenter- Marc Malone

IV. Other Matters

A. Courserdog Information

Presenter- Jennifer Bonds-Raacke

B. AY 2027 Bridge Performance Agreement

Presenter- Jennifer Bonds-Raacke

C. Building a Future in Corequisite Innovation: A Systemwide Faculty Leadership Initiative

Presenter- Jennifer Bonds-Raacke

D. Reduced Credit Baccalaureate Degree Update

Presenter- Jennifer Bonds-Raacke

E. Academic Affairs Updates

Presenter- Jennifer Bonds-Raacke

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment

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 Lounsbery, 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.



Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO)

Kansas Board of Regents

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

2026-03-11 09:30 - 10:30 CDT

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Presenters: Jesse Mendez

B. Request for Minor in Applied Data Analytics-KU.....5

Presenters: Arash Mafi

C. Request to Merge Programs Within the Biomedical Sciences PhD Programs-

KUMC.....8

Presenters: Robert Klein

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

IV. Announcements

V. Adjournment

Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO) Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brent Thomas 9:12 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:

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

Approval of Minutes

Susan Bon moved to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2026, 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 plans to finalize review of IB scores at their meeting today. There have been no suggestions to change cut scores. The Council is also following current legislative activities.

Adjournment

Jesse Mendez moved to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Bichelmeyer seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.