

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 14-15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 1:20 p.m. on May 14, 2025. 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:	Carl Ice, Chair	John Dicus	Neelima Parasker
	Jon Rolph, Vice Chair	Alysia Johnston	Wint Winter
	Blake Benson	Diana Mendoza	Kathy Wolfe Moore

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Board's April 16-17, 2025 meeting and May 8, 2025 special meeting. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

President Linton introduced KSU Student Government Association President Brady Kappelmann; Student Government Association Government Relations Director Lauren Wolter; and Faculty Senate President-Elect Sarah Luly.

President Muma thanked Matthew Muether, WSU's outgoing Faculty Senate President, and introduced incoming President Chris Stone. President Muma also introduced incoming Student Body President Jia Wen Wang and incoming Student Body Vice President Amy Nguyen.

**GENERAL REPORTS**

**REPORT FROM CHAIR**

Chair Ice congratulated everyone graduating from Kansas public higher education institutions this month. The Regents attended commencement ceremonies this weekend and will attend others over the upcoming weekend. The Regents are excited to attend the ceremonies and to celebrate the new graduates.

Chair Ice noted that the Board held a campus visit at Pittsburg State University following the Board meeting last month. He thanked President Shipp and his staff for hosting the Board and said that the Board appreciated the time of the students, faculty, and campus leaders with whom they met.

Chair Ice observed that this is President Shipp's final Board meeting before he leaves PSU. He said that the Board is honored and pleased to have had the opportunity to serve with President Shipp. Chair Ice wished President Shipp luck in his new role.

**REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO**

President Flanders reported that he and Regent Dicus attended a welcome celebration for Fiserv, which has been recruited to Kansas. Fiserv is bringing in 2,000 jobs with an average wage of \$100,000. It will take the whole system to accommodate those employment needs.

President Flanders has been invited to provide an update on the healthcare workforce pipeline at the Kansas Hospital Association's annual retreat. The system needs to think about how to address that labor market demand. President Flanders concluded by noting that the system is dealing with several federal executive orders that address higher education, such as orders concerning accreditation and transparency on foreign influence. The scope and impact of these orders is being examined.

Regent Benson commented that the Fiserv project and projects like it underscore the higher education system's importance to economic development.

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS**

Norman Philipp, Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, reported that six institutions will submit candidates for the Faculty of the Year Award. The seventh institution is prepared to do so next year. He thanked the Board for hearing faculty input and its work to update the policy. The Council's proposed tuition assistance policy is being reviewed.

**REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Hannah Eckstein, Chair of the Students' Advisory Committee, thanked the Regents for their attentiveness to student concerns. She also thanked the university business officers for including the students in the discussion of tuition and fee proposals. Chair Eckstein then recognized the outgoing student government presidents.

Incoming Students' Advisory Committee Chair Azwad Arif thanked the outgoing presidents and recognized the incoming presidents. He reported that the Committee's retreat is tentatively scheduled for September 5.

**STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS****ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Regent Mendoza, Chair of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee, reported that the Committee met on April 30 and approved five programs for the Board's consideration. Those programs are on the Board's consent agenda this afternoon. At the April 30 meeting, the Committee also received background information on program review, discussed program review metrics and minimum requirements, and received annual reports on credit for prior learning and dual credit.

At this morning's meeting, Associate Director of Academic Affairs Mistie Knox shared the All-Star High School Award Recognitions with the Committee. The Committee then received program review reports from KU, KU Medical Center, and KSU. The universities shared their program review processes and ideas for improvement for the future, as well as recommendations for select programs. This information will be shared with the full Board at the June 11 meeting. The Committee asked KU and KSU to take a closer look at departmental efficiencies and requested that the institutions share the steps they are taking to boost enrollment in under-enrolled master's and doctoral programs. The Committee requested a follow-up report in December.

**FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT**

Regent Benson, Chair of the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee, reported that the Committee had an agenda call on April 29 and met this morning. The Johnson County Education Research Triangle budgets and the other fiscal items on this afternoon's consent agenda were previously reviewed by the Committee.

At this morning's meeting, the Committee heard the state universities' tuition and fee proposals. Regent Benson reflected that care and attention went into the requests, and the Committee was pleased to hear how hard every campus worked to keep students' needs in mind. The Committee was particularly impressed with the attention paid by the student government leaders in gathering feedback from their fellow students, including one in the form of a referendum vote, on how to allocate precious student fee revenue and weighing whether an increase should be advanced through the process. The Committee heard from each campus about their efforts to minimize any increase in rates while advocating for the services they believe are most needed to benefit the most students and amplify the university's operation. The business officers and their campus teams also have difficult decisions to make, and the Committee commended them on navigating this age of great uncertainty in higher education. The university CEO's will give brief presentations this afternoon, and the Board will have the coming weeks to ask further questions of the campuses should any Regent need more information or background on the universities' proposals before the Board acts at the June meeting.

Regent Benson noted that the proposals are on the Board's website with the agenda materials for anyone who wishes to review them, and the recording of the Committee's meeting can be found on the Board's YouTube channel.

GOVERNANCE

Chair Ice reported that the Governance Committee met this morning, recessing into executive session to discuss matters related to Fiscal Year 2026 CEO compensation.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Academic AffairsACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE M.ED. IN APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS – WSU

Wichita State University received approval to offer a Master of Education degree in applied behavioral analysis.

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE MS IN FORENSIC BIOLOGY – WSU

Wichita State University received approval to offer a Master of Science degree in forensic biology.

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE MS IN FORENSIC FIREARMS – WSU

Wichita State University received approval to offer a Master of Science degree in forensic firearms.

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE BBA IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT – PSU

Pittsburg State University received approval to offer a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in supply chain management.

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE BS IN INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION – PSU

Pittsburg State University received approval to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial distribution.

Fiscal Affairs and AuditACT ON JOHNSON COUNTY RESEARCH TRIANGLE (JCERT) FY 2026 BUDGETS – KU, KUMC, AND KSU

The Board approved FY 2026 JCERT budgets for operation of the Business, Education, Science and Technology (BEST) Building and degree program at KU's Edwards Campus in Overland Park; the Clinical Research Center at the KU Medical Center in Fairway; and the KSU Innovation Campus in Olathe.

ACT ON DISTRIBUTION OF FY 2026 APPROPRIATION FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT SUCCESS PLAYBOOKS – SYSTEM

The Board approved the following distribution of \$5.8 million appropriated by 2025 Senate Bill 125 for FY 2026 for Public University Student Success Playbooks:

University of Kansas	\$ 1,221,900
Kansas State University	\$ 1,221,900
Wichita State University	\$ 916,500
Emporia State University	\$ 611,000
Pittsburg State University	\$ 611,000
Fort Hays State University	\$ 611,000
Washburn University	\$ 634,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,827,300</b>

RECEIVE INFORMATION ON ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR REGIONAL STATE UNIVERSITIES – FISCAL YEAR 2026

2025 Senate Bill 125 appropriates \$12.0 million to the Board for Fiscal Year 2026 for regional growth and development funding. The legislation directs that the amount be distributed as follows:

Fort Hays State University	\$ 4,400,000
Emporia State University	\$ 3,800,000
Pittsburg State University	\$ 3,800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,000,000</b>

ACT ON FY 2026 NURSING GRANT AWARDS

The Board approved the following Fiscal Year 2026 Kansas Nursing Initiative grant awards:

**Accreditation Support**

Barclay College	\$ 2,500
Coffeyville Community College	\$ 16,121
Salina Area Technical College	\$ 25,200
Washburn Institute of Technology	\$ 118,560
Seward County Community College	\$ 89,860
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	\$ 66,140

**Full Application**

Baker University	\$ 185,496
Barton Community College	\$ 112,946
Benedictine College	\$ 161,988
Bethel College	\$ 69,268
Butler Community College	\$ 34,047
Cloud County Community College	\$ 128,992
Colby Community College	\$ 79,562
Dodge City Community College	\$ 137,266
Emporia State University	\$ 80,268
Fort Hays State University	\$ 291,700
Fort Hays Tech   North Central – Beloit	\$ 62,105
Fort Hays Tech   North Central – Hays	\$ 23,526
Fort Scott Community College	\$ 30,099
Garden City Community College	\$ 50,000
Hesston College	\$ 44,068
Highland Community College	\$ 24,550
Hutchinson Community College	\$ 31,005
Johnson County Community College	\$ 74,652
Kansas City Kansas Community College	\$ 63,304
Kansas Wesleyan University	\$ 32,758
Labette Community College	\$ 35,259
Manhattan Area Technical College	\$ 119,260
MidAmerica Nazarene University	\$ 80,983
Neosho County Community College	\$ 97,198
Newman University	\$ 90,956
Ottawa University	\$ 186,672
Pittsburg State University	\$ 290,608
University of Kansas	\$ 146,575
University of St. Mary	\$ 274,960
Washburn University	\$ 166,821
Wichita State University	\$ 200,859

Technical Education AuthorityACT ON REQUEST FOR DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS: TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE A, B, & AAS IN INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY – MANHATTAN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Manhattan Area Technical College received approval to offer the following program:

- Industrial Maintenance Technology (47.0303) – Technical Certificate A/20 credit hours, Technical Certificate B/38 credit hours, and Associate of Applied Science/60 credit hours.

ACT ON PROMISE ACT PROGRAM: TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE A, B, & AAS IN INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY – MANHATTAN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The Board designated the following as an eligible program under the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act:

- Manhattan Area Technical College: Industrial Maintenance Technology (47.0303).

ACT ON 2025-2026 EXCEL IN CTE QUALIFYING CREDENTIALS

The Board approved the credential list for 2024-2025.

(List on file with official minutes.)

**CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**Academic AffairsRECEIVE THE 2025 APPLY KANSAS ALL STAR HIGH SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

Mistie Knox, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, presented the 2025 All Star High School award winners. High schools receive recognition for completing a college application event, a FAFSA event, and a senior/national signing day during the academic year.

(Presentation on file with official minutes.)

**BREAK**

Chair Ice called for a break at 1:50 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:18 p.m.

**ADDITIONAL ITEM**

Chair Ice announced that the Board will take up an additional item on today's agenda after the Board leadership election to delegate authority to name an interim Pittsburg State University president.

Fiscal Affairs and AuditRECEIVE STATE UNIVERSITY TUITION AND FEE PROPOSALS FOR FY 2026 (FIRST READ)

Regent Benson reminded the Board that this is a first reading of the universities' tuition and fee proposals for Fiscal Year 2026. Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, briefed the Board on the university tuition and fee proposal materials. She noted that tuition revenue has risen approximately 13.6 percent on average since Fiscal Year 2020, less than the rate of inflation.

The University CEOs presented the universities' proposals (President Shipp introduced Provost Susan Bon, who presented PSU's proposal). The presenters discussed the rationale for the proposals and the processes involved in preparing them.

The Regents inquired into various aspects of the proposals. For example, with respect to ESU's proposal to hold tuition and fees flat, Regent Rolph inquired about future increases that could be larger than they would be after several years of no increases. President Hush responded that ESU's goal is to keep tuition and fees at their

current level indefinitely, and that the university's model builds in inflation, wage increases, and a three-percent enrollment downside.

Regarding WSU's proposal, Regent Parasker inquired whether the university considered any measures to reduce the cost of books, which is a concern voiced by the students. President Muma said that work has been done on open education resource utilization and that there has been a decrease in students' costs, but did not have a precise figure. President Muma said students can determine which courses utilize OER materials prior to course selection.

With respect to KU's proposal, Chancellor Girod reported that despite less state support, KU can maintain lower rates than the University of Missouri due to administrative efficiencies. He also noted that proposed adjustments to the federal indirect expense rate would have a huge impact on the university. In response to an inquiry from Regent Winter, the Chancellor acknowledged pressure from other states' increased investments in higher education.

(University FY 2026 Proposals and Presentations on file with official minutes.)

#### ACT ON DISTRIBUTION OF NEED BASED AID FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES – FISCAL YEAR 2026

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented the proposed distribution of \$2.5 million appropriated by 2024 House Bill 2551 for need based aid for the state universities and Washburn university in 2026. This \$2.5 million appropriation in each of Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 represents approximately the amount of monies the public universities lost when the Legislature required Kansas Comprehensive Grant funding to be divided in half between the public universities and the private independent institutions. Universities will receive the same funding they received in FY 2025 when amounts the Legislature appropriated directly to universities are aggregated with the distribution of the \$2.5 million appropriation.

Regent Rolph moved that the funds be distributed as proposed. Regent Benson seconded the motion, and the Board approved the following distribution:

<b>FY 2026 Need Based Aid at Public Universities</b>			
	<b>2024 HB 2551</b>	<b>2025 SB 125</b>	<b>Total Available</b>
Emporia State University	\$ 140,917	\$ 1,227,910	\$ 1,368,827
Fort Hays State University	\$ 405,969	\$ 3,537,490	\$ 3,943,459
Kansas State University	\$ 453,307	\$ 3,949,980	\$ 4,403,287
Pittsburg State University	\$ 208,748	\$ 1,818,970	\$ 2,027,718
University of Kansas	\$ 470,427	\$ 4,099,160	\$ 4,569,587
KU Medical Center	\$ 128,550	\$ 1,120,150	\$ 1,248,700
Wichita State University	\$ 487,317	\$ 4,246,340	\$ 4,733,657
Washburn University (via KBOR)	\$ 204,765	\$ 1,784,260	\$ 1,989,025
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 21,784,260</b>	<b>\$ 24,284,260</b>

#### RECEIVE INFORMATION ON CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR CERTAIN STATE AID – COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, discussed a budget proviso conditioning the distribution of amounts appropriated to the Board for the Two-Year College Business/Industry and Apprenticeship Act and the Two-Year College Student Success Initiatives. Under the proviso, community colleges are eligible to receive the funds during Fiscal Year 2026 if the Board president and CEO certifies to the state Director of Accounts and Reports that "the cash on hand of the community college is equal to or less than six months for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025." An ineligible community college may nevertheless receive



the funds if the Board President and CEO certifies that the college has provided a property tax rebate of the amount by which the college exceeded the maximum cash on hand.

To expedite distribution of the state aid, the colleges will provide preliminary data from their financial systems in August. When FY 2025 audits are complete, the data will be refreshed, and the colleges' eligibility will be reconfirmed. A college must return state aid if the audited financial data reflects a change in eligibility status. Board staff will develop a template for the colleges to complete with the necessary information to verify cash on hand as of June 30, 2025. Vice President Frisbie described the timeline for the verification process and the distribution of funds to eligible colleges.

#### ACT ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS FOR FY 2027 AND FIVE-YEAR PLANS – SYSTEM

Director of Facilities Chad Bristow presented the capital improvement requests for Fiscal Year 2027 and the five-year plans for the system. Director Bristow highlighted the process of reviewing and acting on the Universities' requests each spring, as mandated by Kansas law. Director Bristow noted that the documents included updates reflecting amendments approved at the April meeting, and any subsequent amendments would be incorporated before submission to the Division of the Budget. The projected capital improvement expenditures for FY 2027 total approximately \$732 million spread across 163 projects.

Regent Benson moved to approve the capital improvement requests and five-year plans as presented. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### ACT ON REVISION TO ALLOCATION OF FY 2026 CAMPUS RESTORATION ACT FUND – SYSTEM

Director of Facilities Chad Bristow presented the proposed allocation of Campus Restoration Act funds for Fiscal Year 2026. He noted the Legislature reduced FY 2026 funding to \$30.2 million (from \$32.7 million), with instructions to prorate the amounts allocated to each university. President Linton asked if there is a time limit to spend the funds once allocated. Director Bristow noted that the statute is silent on that point.

Regent Johnston moved to approve the proposed allocation. Regent Wolfe Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried and the following allocation was approved:

<b>Allocation of Kansas Campus Restoration Act Fund for FY 2026</b>			
	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Original Allocation</b>	<b>Revised Allocation</b>
University of Kansas	26.87	\$ 8,061,000	\$ 7,444,734
University of Kansas Medical Center	11.25	\$ 3,375,000	\$ 3,116,990
Kansas State University	29.90	\$ 8,970,000	\$ 8,284,240
Wichita State University	10.98	\$ 3,294,000	\$ 3,042,183
Emporia State University	6.04	\$ 1,812,000	\$ 1,673,486
Pittsburg State University	7.38	\$ 2,214,000	\$ 2,044,752
Fort Hays State University	7.58	\$ 2,274,000	\$ 2,100,165
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 27,706,550</b>

(Presentation on file with official minutes.)

#### UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MASTER PLAN – PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

President Shipp introduced Doug Ball, PSU Vice President for Business, Finance, and Facilities, who discussed the master plan. PSU focused on ensuring connectivity between the facility master plan and other university planning efforts. The master plan contains a summary of key elements of the plan. Vice President Ball touched on selected larger projects, such as those occurring in downtown Pittsburg. He noted one element of the master plan is improving connectivity between campus and the downtown facilities. As to projects on the main campus, Ball highlighted a significant renovation of two science lab facilities; a planned diesel heavy equipment and hybrid electric vehicle lab; and proposed upgrades to student dining facilities. In addition, he highlighted research-related projects such as the Tyler Prove Out facility, the proposed KBI facility. He also noted athletic

facility upgrades to the outdoor track complex and soccer complex. Vice President Ball described PSU's three-phase demolition plan to improve space utilization and discussed the university's six-year maintenance plan and its increased emphasis on preventative maintenance.

President Flanders thanked PSU and its facilities team. He noted that he appreciates the shift away from fix-on-fail planning that he has observed across the system over the last five years. He said that the amount of data, planning, and strategic alignment now available is reflected in PSU's plan and that he appreciates all the work. Chair Ice echoed President Flanders' comments.

(Presentation on file with official minutes.)

#### Other Matters

##### ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME A FACILITY – PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

President Shipp presented a request to name the Office of Sustainability within Pittsburg State University's Overman Student Center the "James R. Triplett Office of Sustainability."

Regent Benson moved to approve the request, and Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

##### ELECT FY 2026 BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Regent Dicus nominated Regent Benson to serve as Board Chair for Fiscal Year 2026. Regent Winter seconded the nomination. The Board elected Regent Benson to serve as Chair.

Regent Johnston nominated Regent Mendoza to serve as Board Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2026. Regent Wolfe Moore seconded the nomination. The Board elected Regent Mendoza to serve as Vice Chair.

Regent Benson thanked Chair Ice for his leadership this year.

##### DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO NAME INTERIM PRESIDENT

Regent Rolph moved that the Board delegate to Regent Benson the authority to appoint an interim Pittsburg State University president. Regent Parasker seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

##### EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

At 3:35 p.m., Regent Rolph moved that the Board recess into executive session for one hour and fifteen minutes to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The subject of the executive session is a regular, annual CEO evaluation, preparation for one or more CEO evaluations, and discussion of a personnel matter. The purpose of the executive session is to protect the privacy of the individual employees involved. The executive session will begin at 3:45 p.m. and the open session of the Board will resume at 5:00 p.m. Regent Dicus seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 5:00 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Regent Johnston moved to extend the executive session to 5:15 p.m. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 5:15 p.m., the Board returned to open session and adjourned.



**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 8:36 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2025, in the Kathy Rupp Room at the Board Office.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Carl Ice, Chair	John Dicus	Neelima Parasker
	Jon Rolph, Vice Chair	Alysia Johnston	Wint Winter
	Blake Benson	Diana Mendoza	Kathy Wolfe Moore

At 8:36 a.m., Regent Rolph moved that the Board recess into executive session for three hours and thirty minutes to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The subject of the executive session is CEO compensation, a regular annual CEO evaluation, and preparation for one or more CEO evaluations. The purpose of the executive session is to protect the privacy of the individual employees involved. The open session of the Board will resume at 12:05 p.m. Regent Benson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 12:05 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session to 1:30 p.m. Regent Johnston seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 1:30 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session to 2:00 p.m. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 2:00 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved the extend the executive session to 2:05 p.m. Regent Ice seconded the motion and the motion carried.

At 2:05 p.m., the Board returned to open session and adjourned.

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Blake Flanders, President and CEO

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Carl Ice, Chair