

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**  
MINUTES  
APRIL 16, 2025

Regent Neelima Parasker called the April 16, 2025, Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the Meadowlark room on the Pittsburg State University Campus, Overman Student Center 302 E Cleveland Ave, Pittsburg, KS 66762, with a virtual option available.

MEMBERS PRESENT:       Regent Alysia Johnston  
                                  Regent Neelima Parasker  
                                  Regent Kathy Wolfe Moore

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regent Wolfe Moore moved that the minutes of the March 12, 2025, meeting be approved. Regent Johnston seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD CONSENT ITEMS**

**PHD IN EDUCATION & BEHAVIORAL STUDIES**

Wichita State University (WSU) Provost Monica Lounsbery introduced Dr. Jennifer Friend, Dean of the College of Applied Studies, and Dr. Philip Mullins, Co-chair of the Department of Intervention Services, Leadership, and Education. Dr. Mullins shared that this program would have Clinical Mental Health Counselor Education and Educational Psychology concentrations. The external review found that the program addresses a critical shortage of professionals in these concentrations. Community leaders support the program for its flexibility, research-driven approach, and utilization of existing resources. This is a 60-credit-hour program with 30 core shared credits and 30 specialty credits. The goal is to prepare graduate students for academic leadership roles, clinical supervision, and applied research. Regent Johnston moved to approve the PhD in Education & Behavioral Studies at WSU. Regent Wolfe Moore seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**BS IN NUTRITION**

University of Kansas (KU) Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer provided an overview of the proposal. She noted that the program will be offered at the Edwards campus in Overland Park, serving as a pipeline for nutrition programs at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She introduced Stuart Day, Dean of the School of Professional Studies at the University of Kansas, who added that this program will attract students from surrounding states. Regent Johnston moved to approve the BS in Nutrition at KU. Regent Wolfe Moore seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER MATTERS**

**SARA REPORT**

Associate Director for Academic Affairs Jennifer Armour provided an overview of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) report. SARA allows accredited degree-granting institutions to offer distance education in other member states without seeking individual authorization from those states. Membership and institutional participation remain relatively similar to last year. Membership was maintained from 52 states and territories with over 2,400 participating institutions. Forty-seven of those institutions are located within Kansas. In Fall 2023, over 11,000 out-of-state students were enrolled in participating Kansas SARA institutions, and 14,000 Kansans were enrolled in distance education offered by out-of-state SARA institutions. Ms. Armour also reported the 2025 annual SARA policy modification process is currently underway. This fall, the NC-SARA Board approved ten proposals from the previous year that all four regional education compacts had approved. On December 26, the U.S. Department of Education announced the termination of the negotiated rulemaking process

for state authorization, and none of the proposed changes were implemented. Proposed federal regulations will continue to be monitored, and updates will be provided on any changes that may affect SARA.

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

Vice President of Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon provided a brief update on the First 15 initiative. During the recent legislative session, there was some conversation about modifying the formula that funds high schools and concurrent enrollment providers for students taking concurrent enrollment courses. Although no action was taken to modify the formula, it will likely be discussed during the 2026 legislative session. The Regents' goal has been to offer certain concurrent enrollment courses—referred to as the First 15—at no cost to students by leveraging existing system funds designated for concurrent enrollment. Should the legislature modify that formula next year, however, there is potential that both colleges and high schools will not receive the full reimbursement for concurrent enrollment students. The Kansas Board of Regents remains committed to expanding early college learning opportunities to more Kansas high school students. Given the uncertainty surrounding the funding formula, it may be wise to explore an interim step toward providing affordable concurrent enrollment courses, perhaps at a reduced cost instead of offering them free to students.

Vice President Monhollon proposed that the First 15 Workgroup seek to develop a framework in which First 15 courses can be offered at low cost to students. “Low cost” means less than the full cost of tuition, fees, and books that institutions usually charge for a typical concurrent enrollment course. The timeline for development and implementation would be adjusted, so recommendations for the Board would be made by the end of the summer. As part of this effort, KBOR will publish the rates each concurrent enrollment provider charges for tuition, fees, and books on its website. Making this information easily available will give students and districts a clear picture of the cost of taking a concurrent enrollment course. Vice President Monhollon plans to reconvene once he can reach out to the workgroup in the next couple of weeks.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next BAASC meeting will be held virtually on April 30, 2025.

### ADJOURNMENT

Regent Wolfe Moore moved that the meeting be adjourned. Regent Johnston seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.