

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**MINUTES**

September 3, 2025

The Board of Regents met virtually for a special meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Blake Benson at 11:31 a.m. Proper notice was given according to the law.

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

Chair Benson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to address items related to the Emporia State University Presidential search. Chair Benson welcomed Jim Kessler, who has agreed to lead the search committee. Mr. Kessler is a long-time supporter and two-time graduate of the University. Chair Benson thanked Mr. Kessler for agreeing to serve on the committee. Mr. Kessler thanked the Board for the opportunity to lead the search committee's work.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**Other Matters****APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Regent Parasker moved to appoint the following individuals to the Emporia State University Presidential Search Committee:

Jim Kessler, Search Committee Chair
Neelima Parasker, Regent
Blake Flanders, KBOR President and CEO

Faculty and Staff

Aaron Clark, IT Support Specialist
Rajarshi Dey, Associate Professor in the School of Science and Mathematics
Steve Rodecap, Director of Athletics
Rochelle Rowley, Professor in the School of School of Humanities + Social Sciences Directory
Sara Schwerdtfeger, Dean of The Teachers College
Jerald Spotswood, Professor of English and Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
Tabatha Tafoya, Director of Human Resources

Students

Joel Franz, Senior, Majoring in Accounting and Finance
Harris Kossover, Graduate Student, in Business Administration and ESU Director of Athletic Digital Content
Madison Vermetten, Senior, Majoring in Biology and Health & Human Performance

Alumni/Community Leaders

Greg Ek, First Vice President, Wealth Management, Alternative Investments Director at Morgan Stanley
Jason Fanning, Vice President at Black & Veatch
Erren Harter, Mayor of Emporia
Greg Kossover, Executive Officer and Director of Equity Bancshares
Jonathan Krueger, Vice President of Security at Reserv
Denise Larrick, Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer Lyon County State Bank
Mike Law, Owner and Operator Law Communications and Litte Apple Broadcasting
Jeff Longbine, Owner Longbine Auto Plaza
Brody Peak, Owner and Operator Emporia Livestock Sales
Doug Peck, Lyon County Commissioner

Cathy Pimple, Chief Executive Officer of Newman Regional Health
Patricia Saenz-Reyes, USD 253 Migrant Education Student & Family Resource Specialist

Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVE EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE CHARGE

Regent Parasker outlined the key responsibilities to be entrusted to the search committee: developing a presidential profile; ensuring an un-biased and nondiscriminatory review of candidates; maintaining confidentiality to protect the integrity of the search process and to protect applicants; working with the executive search consultant to identify and evaluate candidates; and presenting an unranked list of four to five top candidates to the Board for consideration.

Regent Johnston moved that the following search committee charge be adopted:

1. The Emporia State University Presidential Search Committee (“Committee” or “Search Committee”) shall be comprised of individuals (“Committee Members”) appointed by the Kansas Board of Regents to assist and advise the Kansas Board of Regents in the selection of the next President of Emporia State University in accordance with the terms and conditions expressed herein.
2. The Committee shall recommend to the Board in the form of a “Statement of Leadership Characteristics” or “Presidential Profile” the criteria for the position of President of Emporia State University to be approved by the Board by the September 2025 Board meeting. The Board asks the Committee to consider inclusion of strong demonstrated skills in attracting and retaining students, leadership and decision making, innovation, fundraising and financial stewardship, economic and job growth collaborations, consensus building, change management, relationship building, talent development, and execution of a strategic plan.
3. Committee Members shall serve without predetermined bias for or against any prospective candidates nominated, referred, or discovered in the search process.
4. Committee members shall review all candidates without regard to race, religion, creed, or national origin.
5. Committee members shall preserve the confidentiality of the search process and candidate identities. Such confidentiality is essential to the successful outcome of the search and must be maintained with professionalism and diligence at all times throughout the search process and beyond. Public communication regarding this search is to be done only by the chair of the Search Committee.
6. Committee Members shall serve with the understanding that the Search Committee will meet frequently over a period of months and that attendance at scheduled meetings is a top priority.
7. The Committee shall work with an executive search consultant to search for and screen appropriate candidates. The Committee shall evaluate nominations and applications.
8. The Committee shall present to the Kansas Board of Regents an unranked list of the five candidates who are the most qualified for Board selection as the next President of Emporia State University.

9. In all deliberations, Committee Members shall adhere to Board of Regents policies and act in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

Chair Benson stated that the next steps would be listening sessions to help inform the presidential profile. Since that process cannot be completed before the Board's September 2025 meeting, Chair Benson asked the Board if it would consent to himself and President Flanders approving the profile on the Board's behalf. Regent Johnston moved to delegate that authority to Regent Benson and President Flanders. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ADJOURN

Chair Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Blake Benson, Chair