

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
December 11, 2025

The special meeting was called to order by Chair Blake Benson at 10:00 a.m. on December 11, 2025. The meeting was held at Emporia State University, Webb Hall, Memorial Union, located at 1331 Market St., Emporia, Kansas, 66801. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Blake Benson, Chair	Alysia Johnston	Neelima Parasker
	Pamela Ammar	Matt Crocker	John Dicus

NAMING THE 19th PRESIDENT OF EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Chair Benson opened the meeting by expressing the Regents' excitement to appoint the 19th President of Emporia State University and extended gratitude to President Ken Hush for his dedicated leadership, highlighting his student-focused approach and successful tenure. Regent Benson acknowledged the rigorous presidential selection process, commended the Presidential Search Committee, led by Jim Kessler, and emphasized the committee's commitment to the Board's strategic plan, Building a Future. He affirmed that the Board sought a president who embodies the university's mission, entrepreneurial spirit, and collaborative leadership, and concluded with confidence that the next president will continue advancing Emporia State's achievements.

Regent Johnston stated that Dr. Matthew Baker currently serves as Vice President of Student Affairs at Northwest Missouri State University, where he leads all aspects of out-of-class student experiences, including engagement, housing, dining, wellness, and recreation. Under his leadership, the university has achieved increased enrollment and improved student retention and success metrics.

Dr. Baker's prior roles include Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life at Northwest Missouri State, as well as Graduate Resident Director at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Kansas State University, a master's in higher education administration from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Regent Johnston moved to appoint Dr. Matthew Baker as the 19th President of Emporia State University and to delegate to the Board President and CEO authority to negotiate compensation and other terms of employment, and to sign the letter of appointment.

Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried

ADJOURN

Regent Benson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Blake Benson, Chair