

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 15, 2025**

The January 15, 2025, meeting of Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Susan Bon at 9:05 a.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom with an in-person option held in Suite 530 located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jesse Mendez, KSU	Robert Klein, KUMC	Rusty Monhollon, KBOR ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Brent Thomas, ESU	Susan Bon, PSU	
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Monica Lounsbery, WSU	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jill Arensdorf moved that the minutes of the December 18, 2024, meeting be approved. Following the second of Provost Brent Thomas, the motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS UPDATE**

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Chair Norman Philipp provided an update. The council has been working on revisions to policy for the Faculty of the Year awards. Some updates include adding a third award that will include full-time non-tenure track faculty, and the discussion of duties has been extended to include areas of library, clinical, and extension. The revisions will hopefully be finalized at their meeting today and can be presented at the February COCAO meeting.

**FIRST READING****BS IN DATA SCIENCE – KU**

Jen Roberts, filling in for Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer, presented the first reading for the BS in Data Science. Dr. William Duncan shared information and answered questions about the presented program.

**OTHER MATTERS****REQUESTS FOR MINORS IN DATA SCIENCE, PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS, FORENSIC SCIENCE, AND STATISTICS – KU**

Jen Roberts presented four requests for minors for KU, including data science, pre-health professions, forensic science, and statistics. William Duncan, Stuart Day, and Mat Johnson shared information and answered questions for each program. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the four minors as presented. Following the second of Jesse Mendez, the motion carried unanimously.

**REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME OF PSM IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGY**

Jen Roberts presented two name change requests for KU. The first is to change PSM in Applied Science to PSM in Environmental Assessment and move to the Environmental Studies Program. The second is to change the Department of Clinical Child Psychology Program to the Department of Clinical Child Psychology. Brent Thomas moved to approve the two name changes to these degree programs as presented. Following the second of Jesse Mendez, the motion carried unanimously.

**REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME OF BA EXERCISE SCIENCE AND ME EXERCISE SCIENCE**

Monica Lounsbery presented two name change requests for WSU. The first is to change BA Exercise Science to BS Exercise Science, and the second is to change ME Exercise Science to MS Exercise Science. Brent Thomas moved to approve the two name changes. Following the second of Jesse Mendez, the motion carried unanimously.

#### FACULTY TUITION PROPOSAL

Council of Faculty Senate President Chair Norman Philipp presented a unified tuition assistance program proposal. This proposal aims to extend faculty tuition assistance programs across Kansas Board of Regents institutions. Susan Bon moved to recommend this proposal go to the next committee for further clarification and discussion. Brent Thomas shared his support for this concept but recommended that further details be worked out and finalized before moving to the next level of approval, and this proposal be tabled until more information can be provided. Vice President of Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon asked if any cost estimates have been done yet. Professor Philipp stated that there has not been a cost analysis yet. He is still waiting on data from the universities on how many faculty and staff currently utilize these programs. Vice President Monhollon recommended having an estimate prior to presenting to the business officers. Jill Arensdorf shared that she was uncomfortable supporting the presented proposal without knowing the financial impact. Monica Lounsbery also expressed interest in the proposal pending further information. Susan Bon withdrew her original motion, and Brent Thomas withdrew his amendment. Monica Lounsbery moved to endorse, in concept, the proposal and request further exploration into the fiscal and mechanical implications of the program. Susan Bon seconded the motion. Brent Thomas offered an amendment to commend and thank the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents for their work on this important initiative. Susan Bon restated the present motion with the amendment, which is to commend and thank the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents and to conceptually endorse the tuition proposal that was shared today pending further exploration into fiscal and mechanical details and financial implications. Brent Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Brent Thomas moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Jesse Mendez, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.