

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

The February 12, 2025, meeting of Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Susan Bon at 9:12 a.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brent Thomas moved that the minutes of the January 15, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of Jesse Mendez, the motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS UPDATE

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Chair Norman Philipp provided an update. He represented the CoFSP yesterday at the judiciary hearing for House Bill 2348 and submitted an opposition position statement. Per the agenda, the remaining updates will be addressed later in the meeting.

FIRST READING

BS IN NUTRITION

Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the first reading for the BS in Nutrition. Stuart Day shared information and answered questions about the presented program.

SECOND READING

BS IN DATA SCIENCE

Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the first reading for the BS in Nutrition. Dr. William Duncan stood for questions about the presented program. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the proposal as presented. Following the second of Brent Thomas, the motion carried unanimously.

OTHER MATTERS

REQUESTS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF BS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO BBA IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Susan Bon presented the request to change the name of BS in Workforce Development to BBA in Human Resource Development. Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to approve the name change. Following the second of Brent Thomas, the motion carried unanimously.

FACULTY & STAFF TUITION PROPOSAL FOLLOW-UP

Professor Norman Philipp, Chair of CoFSP, presented a follow-up update on the Faculty & Staff Tuition Proposal. A request was sent out to registrars and CFOs, asking for official data on this program's current utilization on all campuses. He was able to share some preliminary data, including the average annual dollars spent for each university. A survey was also sent to all university benefits-eligible faculty and staff members, asking which institution they work for and their understanding of the tuition assistance program. This data will be shared at a later date after all institutions have had the opportunity to respond. Professor Philipp was also able to share this

proposal with COBO last week. One option for implementing this will be utilizing the tuition benefits option as a scholarship program. The other option is structured similarly to the KU third-party affiliation, where an individual could apply for reimbursement after completion of a program equal to the value at their home university. This program could be launched in two phases. The first is for online programs only and the second would include on-campus programs as well. All options will be investigated further, and a more detailed update will be provided at the meeting in March.

FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARD POLICY UPDATE

Director of Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond shared an update to the Faculty of the Year Award Policy. This item was previously on the Governance Committee's agenda last month at the request of the Board Chair, Regent Ice. At that time, Regent Ice mentioned he wanted to see university staff be considered for an award as well. KBOR's legal team added a section to the Faculty of the Year Award policy to include staff. This addition would also include changing the title of the policy. There were additional changes to include a deadline for nominations by the May Board meeting to provide flexibility for Board review. Professor Philipp shared The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents involvement in these changes and the council has modified the universal criteria used as a template for the universities to reflect the policy changes. These criteria will be finalized and forwarded to President Flanders for approval.

DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES THAT UNIVERSITIES ARE CONSIDERING OR PLANNING TO PURSUE IN THE FUTURE

Robert Klein shared that KUMC will be moving the Health Informatics program from the KU School of Nursing to the School of Health Professions to better align the accreditation with the Health Information Management program, as both programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Health Information Management.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Susan Bon provided a reminder that the next COCAO meeting will be held on March 12.

ADJOURNMENT

Jesse Mendez moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Brent Thomas, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.