

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS  
MINUTES  
APRIL 16, 2025**

The April 16, 2025, meeting of Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by chair Susan Bon at 8:53 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:**

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**

Jill Arensdorf moved that the minutes of the March 12, 2025, meeting be approved. Jesse Mendez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS UPDATE**

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Chair Norman Philipp provided an update on legislative matters that CoFSP has been monitoring, including the status of HB 2348, which did not pass this session. He expressed gratitude for KBOR's support of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Higher Education and shared his anticipation for future developments. Regarding the Faculty of the Year Award, one institution is still finalizing its criteria; however, all institutions are expected to submit a complete list of nominees for all three categories by May. One institution is still finalizing the Faculty and Staff of the Year Award criteria. Still, all institutions are expected to submit a complete list of nominees for all three tiers by May.

**FIRST READING**

**AAS IN FEED AND FOOD MANUFACTURING – KSU**

Jesse Mendez introduced Dr. Dan Moser, Associate Dean for Academic Programs for the College of Agriculture. Dr. Moser provided an overview of the proposal, stating that this program will address a national shortage in this field. The program would be unique to Kansas and the surrounding area, as only three other land-grant universities currently offer similar programs nationally.

**BS IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING – KSU**

Jesse Mendez introduced Vice Provost Margaret Mohr-Schroeder, who provided an overview of the proposal. This program would be the only nuclear program in the state of Kansas. KSU already has qualified faculty and is equipped to offer such a program.

**SECOND READING**

**BBA IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT - PSU**

Susan Bon introduced Dr. Paul Grimes, Dean of the College of Business. Dr. Grimes shared that the program is proposed in cooperation with the College of Technology and the Industrial Distribution program. Both programs will share the same General Education package and major courses in supply chain and Distribution. Students earning the BBA will take basic business courses, and the industrial distribution students will take the basic technology courses. The programs require adding two new courses, one in business and one in technology. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the BBA in Supply Chain Management at PSU. Monica Lounsbery seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**BS IN INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION - PSU**

Susan Bon introduced Dr. Andrew Klenke, Chair for the School of Technology and Workforce Learning. Dr. Klenke echoed the information provided by Dr. Grimes. Monica Lounsbery moved to approve the BS in Industrial Distribution at PSU. Jill Arensdorf seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**MED APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS - WSU**

Monica Lounsbery introduced Dr. Jennifer Friend, Dean of the College of Applied Studies, and Dr. Angela Beeler, Coordinator for the School of Psychology & Applied Behavioral Analysis, from the Department of Intervention Services, Leadership in Education. Dr. Beeler shared that this degree would be a total of thirty-six credit hours, twenty-one of which are currently being offered. Three new courses will be created without the need for faculty changes. This program will better accommodate students needing a master's degree to sit for their Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam. The need for BCBAs has increased both in Kansas and the rest of the nation. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the MEd Applied Behavioral Analysis at WSU. Jesse Mendez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**MS IN FORENSIC BIOLOGY - WSU**

Monica Lounsbery introduced Dr. David Eichhorn, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Yumi Suzuki, Interim Director for Forensic Biology, Firearms, and Criminal Investigations. Dr. Suzuki shared that the proposed programs in Forensic Biology and Forensic Firearms focus on the applied learning experience in the ATF lab on campus at WSU. These proposals create a talent pipeline to local, state, and federal crime labs. The Forensic Biology program will consist of thirty-four credit hours. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the MS in Forensic Biology at WSU. Jesse Mendez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**MS IN FORENSIC FIREARMS - WSU**

Dr. Suzuki shared that the Forensic Firearms program will require thirty credit hours and that both traditional and professional students are expected to enroll in the Forensic Biology and Forensic Firearms programs. Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to approve the MS in Forensic Firearms at WSU. Jesse Mendez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER MATTERS****REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME OF BA IN ENGLISH TO BS IN ENGLISH - PSU**

Susan Bon requested approval to change the name of the BA in English to BS in English. Jesse Mendez moved to approve the change. Monica Lounsbery seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**FACULTY & STAFF TUITION PROPOSAL FOLLOW-UP**

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Chair Norman Philipp shared that the updated data collected was presented to COBO at their April meeting. This updated data was also shared with the CAOs via email. COBO has requested additional information to include aggregated data by university to show the projected number of faculty and staff who might utilize this tuition proposal, as well as further information on the cost implications and the projected monetary value of the tuition proposal. Chair Philipp shared that COBO has expressed interest in piloting the first two phases of the proposal (online and hybrid) before considering phase three (in person). Additional data and discussions will continue to be shared with the council as they are received.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Susan Bon provided a reminder that the next COCAO meeting will be held on May 14.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Brent Thomas moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jill Arensdorf seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.