

**Council of Presidents  
December 17, 2025**

At 10:30 a.m. President Hush called the Council of Presidents meeting to order at the Curtis State Office Building (CSOB), 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, KS 66612.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Ken Hush, Emporia State University, Chair Thomas Newson, Pittsburg State University Doug Girod, University of Kansas	Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University Rick Muma, Wichita State University Rich Linton, Kansas State University
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Muma moved that the minutes of the November 19, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of Chancellor Girod, the motion carried.

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS:** Brent Thomas, Ph.D.

- Act on Request to Approve BS in Cybersecurity – ESU (this was reviewed by COCAO Nov. 19 and was approved by 3 of the 6 state universities, with one “no” vote and two abstentions). Chancellor Girod moved that the program be approved. Following a second by President Newson, the motion carried with one abstention, President Linton.
- Act on Request to Approve BS in Applied & Interdisciplinary Studies – K-State (if approved unanimously by COCAO) Chancellor Girod moved that the program be approved. Following a second by President Newson, the motion carried unanimously.
- Act on Request to Approve BS in Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Science – KU (if approved unanimously by COCAO) President Linton moved that the program be approved. Following a second by President Mason, the motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICERS:** Sheila Markowitz

- All commencement ceremonies have concluded. Thanks to the Regents for support and participation.
- Student fees will be discussed with student government representatives across campuses.
- Housing applications are open, with some institutions seeing an increase in applications compared to previous years.

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICERS & RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CRED):** Greg Schneider, Ph.D.

- COGRO did not have a formal meeting, but all members attended the hearing on DEI before the House Committee on Government Oversight. The common themes presented include:
  - All the universities are in compliance with the law.
  - Website search found many examples of continued DEI names and titles
  - Discussion afterward focused on Goldwater Institute policy to not mandate courses in DEI—this will be basis of legislation this session.

**REPORT FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CRED):** Cory Falldine

No report

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICERS:** Angela Wolgram

- COBO focused on several legislative items. First, for the 2026 Legislature, institutions will report **only fully remote employees**, excluding hybrid work, due to vague statutory language. KBOR will submit a single consolidated report with a cover letter clarifying that definition.
- There is **significant uncertainty** around the provision requiring SGF funding for vacant positions to lapse by June 30, 2026. Guidance has not been provided, and the practical impact on campuses is unclear; clarification is being pursued.
- Legislative scrutiny of university expenditures continues. Institutions are responding to a targeted data request from Rep. Waymaster, with KBOR coordinating a consistent, systemwide response to either the highlighted or commented expenditures.

**OTHER MATTERS**

- Tenure policies: Blake Flanders, Ph.D.  
President Flanders provided an update on the tenure policy. The policy is scheduled for the first read today and the second read in January. Feedback was requested and some has been received and will be taken into consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 pm by Chancellor Girod, seconded by President Muma.