

**Council of Presidents
November 19, 2025
Minutes**

At 1:00 p.m. President Ken Hush called the Council of Presidents meeting to order virtually.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Hush, Emporia State University Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University
 Thomas Newsom, Pittsburg State University Rick Muma, Wichita State University
 Doug Girod, University of Kansas Rich Linton, Kansas State University

Approval of Minutes

President Linton moved that the minutes of the September 17, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of President Rick Muma, the motion carried.

Report from System Council of Chief Academic Officers

Brent Thomas, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of Academic Affairs

- Tenure policy revisions will be presented for a first reading in December, with Board action scheduled for January.
- BS in Cybersecurity – approved by COCAO; will move forward at the next BAASC meeting for consideration. The votes were 3 “yes” (ESU, PSU, FHSU); 1 voting “no” (K-State); and 2 Abstentions (KU + WSU).
- BAS in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Reduced-Credit Bachelor’s Degree), K-State. Motion to Table this proposal was approved. The votes were 5 voting in support of tabling the proposal until such time that the KBOR approves policy on reduced credit baccalaureate degrees and 1 voting against the motion (K-State).
- They heard a few first reads for new degree programs and several second reads, which were approved and now require a vote by the Council of Presidents.
 - BA in Religious Education & Community Engagement. President Linton moved that the program be approved. Following a second by President Muma, the motion carried.
 - BA & BGS in Intelligence & National Security Studies. President Mason moved that the program be approved. Following a second by President Hush, the motion carried.
 - BS in Diversified Agriculture. President Hush moved that the program be approved. Following a second by Chancellor Girod, the motion carried.
- The following name change requests were heard and approved unanimously.
 - Request from KUMC to change the names of the MS in Nursing to MSN in Nursing.
 - Requests from PSU to change name of Department of Chemistry to Chemistry & Physics and Department of Mathematics & Physics to Mathematics & Computer Science.
 - Requests from WSU to change the name of School of Nursing to Ascension Via Christi – Wichita State School of nursing, change the name of College of Applied Studies to College of Education, change the name of School of Education to School of Teaching & Learning, change the name of Department of Intervention Services to Counseling, Educational Leadership, Educational, & School Psychology, and request to merge the departments of Economics and Marketing not the Department of Marketing and Economics.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICERS:

TK Kriley, Ed.D., Executive Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success

- Recruitment and retention initiatives continue to be positive as we approach the spring semester. Across the universities, leaders consistently report the outstanding experiences our students are having on campuses. Together, we affirm: our students are exceptional.

- Student Advisory Council meeting in December will focus on training students for Higher Education Day scheduled for February 4. Priorities continue to focus on financial aid and options for students, student success, and working together on shared legislative priorities.
- Students from four of our six universities are participating in this year's training at Kansas Leadership Center (KLC). The Leadership for Free Expression program continues to provide students with meaningful opportunities to learn, practice, and reflect. We are sharing feedback on the pricing model and participation levels with KLC to inform future planning.
- Students from the KBOR student focus group participated in a virtual focus group last week to provide feedback on some of the initiatives that the system has implemented such as general education and student success.
- Our teams have been diligently preparing for the upcoming room and board rate recommendations, working to balance rising housing and dining costs with our commitment to delivering an exceptional student experience.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICERS & RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CRED):

Greg Schneider, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs and Government Relations

- Two signals from legislative committees (Joint Committee on the State Budget and Committee on Government Efficiency) More concrete discussion will take place next month.
 - They have both raised concerns regarding university fee structures and associated expenditures, and will be conducting a thorough review of these fees.
 - The Joint Committee on State Budget raised numerous questions regarding the recent request from the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), including inquiries about literacy initiatives, continuing education programs, and a \$15 million allocation for energy projects at research universities. This matter warrants continued observation.

REPORT FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CRED):

Cory Falldine, Executive Vice President of Operations and Economic Development

There was no report from CRED.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICERS:

Angela Wolgram, Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

- Elaine communicated Kansas Development Finance Authority's recommendation to enhance the KBOR reserve policy. Draft revisions to the policy will be distributed for feedback, with a focus on ensuring cash flow stability, maintaining strong credit ratings, and preparing for possible federal funding delays.
- Senate is reviewing the 2024 expenditures. Please ensure readiness to address any questions or requests for clarification.
- COBO provided suggestions regarding topics for Governance Committee presentations. The objective is to promote consistency among universities in delivering annual security updates.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 pm by Chancellor Girod, seconded by President Muma.