

**Council of Presidents
September 17, 2025**

At 11:00 a.m. President Hush called the Council of Presidents meeting to order in Suite 530 at the Curtis State Office Building (CSOB), 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, KS 66612.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Hush, Emporia State University, Chair Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University
Thomas Newsom, Pittsburg State University Rick Muma, Wichita State University
Barb Bichelmeyer, University of Kansas Jesse Mendez, Kansas State University

Approval of Minutes

President Muma moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025, meeting. Provost Bichelmeyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Report from Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO)

Brent Thomas, Ph.D., Emporia State University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Faculty Senate President Thomas discussed employee tuition assistance and instructional workload policies.
- Several first reads for new degree programs were presented.
- ESU requested to merge the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies into the School of Library & Information Management and Library Archives.
- KSU requested name changes for four degree programs.
- PSU proposed the creation of a Center for Business and Talent Development.

Report from Council of Student Affairs Officers (COSAO)

Taylor TK Kriley, Ed.D., Emporia State University Executive Vice President, Enrollment Management and Student Success

- Hosted first joint meeting with the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) and Council of Student Affairs Officers (COSAO).
- Discussed shared goals including student governance, enrollment, and retention strategies.
- Explored ways to engage student voices in policy development and scholarship access.
- Future collaboration opportunities and a student council succession planning retreat in June were discussed.

Report from Council of Government Relations Officers (COGRO)

Greg Schneider, Ph.D., Emporia State University Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs + Government Relations

- General budget discussion pending KBOR action.
- Budget cuts of \$200 million over three years were discussed; emphasis on limiting overall requests while allowing universities to work with legislators on specific items.
- Tenure discussions will be led by COCAO.
- Concerns raised by nursing college deans regarding HB2392, a workforce bill aimed at allowing BSN-prepared nurses to teach college-level courses.
- Legislative reception scheduled for February 11.
- Discussion included the assassination of Charlie Kirk on a college campus and its potential impact on perceptions of higher education.

Report from Council for Research and Economic Development (CRED)

Cory Falldine, Emporia State University Executive Vice President of Operations and Economic Development

- CRED is a new committee focused on operationalizing Pillar 3 of the KBOR Strategic Plan.
- Comprised of two subcommittees: Research and Economic Development.
- Kansas is losing competitive advantage in federal funding.
- Agencies are consolidating grants to coastal elites and large research consortia.
- Kansas lacks a unified cyberinfrastructure or AI platform.

- CRED will hold a roundtable with Regents to discuss Pillar 3 tomorrow.

Report from Council of Chief Business Officers (COBO)

Angela Wolgram, Emporia State University Executive Vice President for Finance + Chief Financial Officer

- Reviewed draft KBOR facility policy which would:
 - Increase University CEO authority to approve projects up to \$1.5 million (currently \$500,000).
 - Delegate authority to Board President and CEO to approve amendments to the five-year capital plan and program statements for projects under \$10 million.
- Discussed the Kansas Campus Restoration Act.
- Rubin Brown presented a cybersecurity assessment; system received a 3.2 out of 5 rating with recommendations for improvement.
- Gartner's review of the State's cybersecurity assessment will be reported at a later date.
- New cash reserve requirements will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am by President Muma, seconded by President Mason.