

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
System Council of Chief Academic Officers
MINUTES
September 17, 2025

The September 17, 2025, meeting of the System Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Mickey McCloud at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka. *Proper notice was given according to law.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brandon Galm, Cloud County CC	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Mickey McCloud, JCCC	Marc Malone, GCCC	Monica Lounsbery, WSU
Brent Thomas, ESU	Susan Bon, PSU	Lisa Kirmer, FHTC
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Luke Dowell, Seward CC	Rusty Monhollon, KBOR (<i>ex officio</i>)
Jesse Mendez, KSU		

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marc Malone moved that the minutes of the June 11, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of Luke Dowell, the motion carried.

Systemwide Updates

2025 KCOG Conference and TAAC Update

Jennifer Bonds-Raacke, Director for Academic Affairs, reminded the committee that the 2025 KCOG conference will take place on Friday, October 10. Registration will close September 26. There are currently 270 faculty registered. She asked Council members to encourage their faculty to volunteer for discipline co chair roles.

Reduced-Credit Baccalaureate Degrees Update

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared that there are approximately 60 institutions nationwide that either currently offer or are developing reduced credit baccalaureate programs. The Higher Learning Commission has approved nine programs ranging from 90 to 99 credit hours in various discipline areas. He expressed the need to develop a policy for reduced credit baccalaureate degrees, noting the possibility of modifying the current policy for baccalaureate degrees. He noted that BAASC has already directed Academic Affairs staff to move forward with the initiative.

Chair McCloud opened the floor to discussion. Provost Mendez shared that in conversation with other institutions, there has been no implication of students in these programs attending graduate school. Programs are workforce-oriented and cover subject areas not currently offered as a bachelor's degree.

Monica Lounsbery inquired about the number of credit hours required for a three-year degree. VP Monhollon responded that the HLC has set the minimum at 90 credit hours. Dr. Lounsbery noted that WSU would welcome the opportunity to participate in a workgroup to work through issues

such as general education requirements. Brandon Galm mentioned that other institutions who have created reduced credit baccalaureate degrees have reduced the number of required upper level hours.

Chair McCloud emphasized the importance of discussing the intent of a reduced credit bachelor's degree and how it differs from a traditional bachelor's degree. Lisa Kirmer, FHTC added that the committee should also consider the difference between an associate degree and a reduced credit bachelor's degree. Marc Malone added that reduced credit bachelor's programs were an area of interest for the two-year sector and emphasized the importance of ironing out policy around these programs.

VP Monhollon noted intent to bring together representatives from both 4-year and 2-year institutions to begin further discussion.

Other Matters

Update on Online Proctoring Contract

Director for Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond shared that the current contract with HonorLock is set to expire at the end of November, and that KBOR will be negotiating a new contract. She added that KU, WSU, FSCC, and SCCC have expressed interest in the contract and to let her know if any other institutions are interested.

Announcements

Academic Affairs Updates

VP Monhollon shared that the next meeting will be held virtually on November 19th.

Adjournment

Monica Lounsbery moved to adjourn the meeting. Following the second of Jill Arensdorf, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.