



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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BOARD OF REGENTS DESIGNATES JOHN SCHWENN AS EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY'S INTERIM PRESIDENT

Board Also Approves “Profile of Leadership Characteristics” That Will Guide Search for Schallenkamp Successor

(TOPEKA) – The Kansas Board of Regents today designated Dr. John Schwenn to serve as Interim President at Emporia State University. Schwenn is currently the University's Vice President for Academic Affairs, and will assume his new responsibilities upon the departure of ESU President Kay Schallenkamp, who, after nearly nine years of outstanding leadership, will leave ESU this summer to assume the presidency of Blackhills State University in her home state of South Dakota. Dr Schwenn, will serve as Interim President until Dr. Schallenkamp's permanent successor is installed, and will not be a candidate to hold the job permanently.

“John Schwenn is well-equipped to provide precisely the kind of leadership the Board of Regents expects from an Interim President,” said Board of Regents Chairman Donna Shank. “The Board is confident that under John's leadership, Emporia State University will continue the positive movement that has been generated by Kay Schallenkamp during her time at ESU.”

Dr. Schwenn holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, with a major in Psychology. He earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Rehabilitation and Special Education from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and came to ESU in 1989 as the Associate Chair of the Teachers College's Division of Psychology.

Since his arrival, he has served in positions of increasing responsibility, including Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. He was appointed as ESU's Chief Academic Officer in 1997. “He knows the University and has been a key leader there for more than 15 years,” said Board of Regents President and CEO Reginald Robinson.

“He also knows and understands the broader higher education landscape in the state of Kansas, and he has been active in the Emporia community as well,” Robinson added. “John is remarkably well-suited to lead Emporia State University during a time of transition as it prepares for the arrival of a new leader,” he said.

The Board's vote to designate Dr. Schwenn as ESU's Interim President was unanimous. "The Board is grateful for Dr. Schwenn's willingness to assume this critically important responsibility," said Board of Regents Vice Chair Nelson Galle. "We have enjoyed working with him during his tenure as ESU's chief academic officer, and we look forward to working with him in a new capacity as he steps up to the opportunity of providing institutional leadership as an Interim President."

During his service as Interim President, Dr. Schwenn will be paid an annualized salary of \$150,000.

In other action related to Emporia State University, the Board of Regents unanimously adopted the "Profile of Leadership Characteristics" that will guide the effort to identify President Schallenkamp's permanent successor.

The Profile was proposed by the Emporia State University Presidential Search Committee, which the Regents appointed to lead the presidential search process. The Profile, which is attached, also reflects insights and suggestions that John Hicks, an executive search consultant who has been hired to assist the Search Committee, gathered from a broad array of ESU stakeholders.

"This 'Profile of Leadership Characteristics' is an excellent document that will serve us exceptionally well as we work to identify, recruit, and hire the next President of Emporia State University," said Janice DeBauge, a member of the Board of Regents and Chairman of the Search Committee. I am very pleased with the Committee's work to produce this document, and appreciate the Board's adoption of the Profile. This represents a critically important step in the search process."

The Profile will also provide the substance for advertisements that will be placed nationally within the coming days. In addition, the Profile, along with other materials describing the outstanding leadership opportunity available at Emporia State University, will be disseminated broadly and on a national scale.

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