

Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

AGENDA

Kansas Board of Regents

1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, KS

3:30 PM – September 15, 2021

Special Virtual Meeting

- I. CALL TO ORDER** Chair Frederick
- II. DISCUSSION AGENDA**
- A) Excel in CTE Distribution Proviso Discussion Vice President Frisbie
- B) University Program Request Vice President Smathers
Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus: Associate of Applied
Science degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (49.0101)
- III. NEXT MEETING REMINDER** (Thursday, September 30, 2021) Chair Frederick
- IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Distribution Timing of FY22 Appropriations for Technical Education (Excel in Career Technical Education Initiative and AO-K Proviso)

Summary

The Excel in CTE Initiative provides state-financed college tuition for high school students in postsecondary technical education courses for students earning industry-recognized credentials in high-demand occupations. During the 2021 legislative session, a new appropriation proviso was added requiring payments for this program be made to institutions in a certain timeframe.

9/15/2021

Background

K.S.A. 72-3819, known as the Excel in CTE Initiative, provides state-financed college tuition for high school students in postsecondary technical education courses and incentives to school districts for students earning industry-recognized credentials in high-demand occupations. Funding for this program is provided through an appropriation of Tuition for Technical Education to the Board of Regents Office. The appropriation also provides funding for tuition for adults without a high school diploma or GED who are enrolled in tiered technical courses in designated Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) approved pathways.

Since the program's inception, funding for the tuition portion of the Excel in CTE program has been distributed twice a year based on student enrollments submitted to the Kansas Higher Education Data System by the institutions in two separate special data collections. Each year, funds were dispersed in January based on Fall enrollment data submissions and dispersed in June based on Spring enrollment data collections. During the 2021 legislative session, the following proviso was added to this appropriation impacting the timing of payments.

And provided further, That during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, not later than 60 days following the class start date, expenditures shall be made by the above agency from such account for tuition reimbursement.

In order to comply with this new expenditure timing requirement, a change is required in the collection of data, the basis of how the funds are distributed, and when funds are dispersed to institutions. The earliest institution's fall 2021 start date appears to be August 9; however, class start dates vary from institution to institution, along with several start dates within each institution. October 8, 2021 is 60 days from this earliest class start date, which is when expenditures must be made for the program. As opposed to increasing the number of data collections and making payments multiple times throughout a semester to institutions with each a new class start date, Board staff will distribute FY 2022 funds based off institutions academic year 2021 enrollment data submission. This process will increase administrative efficiency for both institutions and the Board Office.

Institutions were given until September 10, 2021 to certify the college's academic year 2021 enrollment data. To allow sufficient time for data review, FY 2021 distribution reconciliations, and FY 2022 funding allocation recommendations, the Technical Education Authority approval of the FY 2022 Excel in CTE funds is occurring during this special meeting. Unfortunately, due to the time constraints, the information will not be available until the day of the meeting.

KSU AAS in Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program

Summary

KSU Polytechnic (KSU Aerospace and Technology) has resubmitted their request to offer a 60-credit hour associate of applied science degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Based on previous discussions with TEA members, Board staff have compiled information regarding KSU and the Polytechnical Campus (aka K-State Polytechnic), the proposed Unmanned Aircraft Systems program, information regarding K-State Salina's current Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and information regarding all associate degree programs at universities. In addition, current letters opposing the program have also been provided to members.

9/15/2021

K-State Polytechnic

For more than 50 years, the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus has provided an innovative learning environment focused on preparing students for their professional careers. In 1965, when the property transformed from Schilling Air Force Base into Schilling Institute, it was the state's only technical school offering two-year training programs in aviation, engineering, and technology. Continuing the trend of connecting education with real-world application, a computer science technology degree was added two years later – the first program of its kind offered by any college in Kansas.

Schilling Institute was renamed Kansas Technical Institute in 1969, and during its almost 20 years under that title, expanded its degree options in both the aviation and technology fields. What is today's nationally known professional pilot program started as an associate degree in 1986 and graduated seven students in its first class.

The property evolved once again in 1988 into Kansas College of Technology with a statewide mission to provide the education of technicians and technologists. Then, in 1991, the school merged with Kansas State University and the Salina Wildcat family was born. The campus became the university's ninth college and to better reflect its history of hands-on education and its continued applied learning style, changed its name from Kansas State University Salina to Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus in 2015.

K-State Polytechnic's program proposal

Proposed program application is included in the additional information provided.

K-State Polytechnic's current Unmanned Aircraft Systems program

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (*minor*) – the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) minor offers students, who are in other degree options, the opportunity to understand drones. This standalone minor prepares students, or anyone with a bachelor's degree, to earn safety and remote pilot certifications in addition to a solid foundation in multi-rotor flight, maintenance, safety, mapping, data management, and design and construction.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems Design and Integration (*bachelor's degree and certificate*) – the unmanned aircraft systems design and integration degree option will go behind-the-scenes of drone technology to explore the intricacies of UAS construction and implementation, with no flight ratings required. The curriculum combines principles of computer science, electronics, and mechanical engineering giving students the opportunity to work hands-on in multiple areas including communication systems, electronic circuits, machine design, manufacturing technology, camera systems, and other payloads.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight and Operations (*bachelor's degree*) – degree option of study prepares students for careers in the field of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or remotely piloted aircraft. This is a rapidly growing area of aviation, and students will be prepared to safely deploy UAS vehicles in response to emerging challenges and opportunities. Coursework includes foundational courses in aviation flight and maintenance necessary for UAS operation and specific courses designed

to enable commercially available payload to platform integration and to enable students to think critically in a rapidly developing technical field. Students will be prepared for technical and/or entry-level managerial positions and will be required to successfully defend a portfolio of accumulated learning prior to graduation.

Existing associate degree programs at universities

Fort Hays State University				
Program Title	Award	Award Description	Credit Hours	CIP
GENERAL STUDIES	AGS	ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES	60	24.0101
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	80	51.0907
TECHNOLOGY AND LEADERSHIP	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	60	52.0210

Kansas State University				
Program Title	Award	Award Description	Credit Hours	CIP
APPLIED BUSINESS	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	63	52.0305
AVIATION MAINTENANCE	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	70	47.0607
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	AT	ASSOCIATE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	64	15.0000
PROFESSIONAL PILOT	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	60	49.0102

Pittsburg State University				
Program Title	Award	Award Description	Credit Hours	CIP
ARCHITECTURAL MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	66	15.0612
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	61	15.0607
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	64	47.0604
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	60	13.1309
ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	73	47.0101

Washburn University				
Program Title	Award	Award Description	Credit Hours	CIP
COMPUTER INFORMATION SCIENCE	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	62	11.0101
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	62	43.0103
CULINARY ARTS	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	62	12.0505
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	62	50.0499
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY - GRAPHICS TECHNOLOGY	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	66	50.0499
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY - TECHNICAL DRAFTING	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	66	50.0499
EARLY CHILDHOOD	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	74	13.1210
ENGINEERING-PHYSICS	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	64	14.0102
HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	76	51.0707
HUMAN SERVICES	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	62	51.1599
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY	AAS	ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE	62	47.9999
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	62	47.9999
LABORATORY SCIENCE	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	62	41.0000
LEGAL STUDIES	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	62	22.0302
LIBERAL STUDIES	AGS	ASSOCIATE OF LIBERAL STUDIES	62	24.0101
NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	62	30.1801
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	68	51.0803
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	66	52.0401
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	67	51.0806
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	70	51.0911
RESPIRATORY THERAPY	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	72	51.0908
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY	AS	ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE	70	51.0909

Washburn University is the degree granting institution for technical programs at Washburn Institute of Technology.

Wichita State University				
Program Title	Award	Award Description	Credit Hours	CIP
ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	AA	ASSOCIATE OF ARTS	65	24.0199

Wichita State University and the Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology have a formal affiliation agreement.

Kansas State University Technology and Aviation (Polytechnic)

Kansas State University

Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Program Approval

I. General Information

A. Institution

Kansas State University

B. Program Identification

Degree Level: Associate of Applied Science
Program Title: Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
Degree to be Offered: Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems
Responsible Department or Unit: College of Technology and Aviation/UAS Department
CIP Code: 49.0101
Modality: Face-to-Face
Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2022

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours for the Degree: 60

II. Clinical Sites: Does this program require the use of Clinical Sites? No

III. Justification

Technical certificates and associate degree offerings have been central to the core mission and educational offerings of K-State Polytechnic since 1967. These offerings are critical to our ability to serve the aviation and technology industries that rely on our graduates for their workforce needs. Kansas statutes annotated the ability to offer such programs during the merger between Kansas College of Technology (K-State Polytechnic) and Kansas State University in 1991.

- KS 76-213. Powers and authority of board of regents; regarding the Kansas state university polytechnic campus. (a) The state board of regents has and may exercise the following powers and authority: (1) To determine the programs of technical education and other programs which shall be offered and the certificates of completion of courses or curriculum and degrees which may be granted by the Kansas State University Polytechnic
- (b) As used in this section, the term "technical education" means vocational or technical education and training or retraining which is given at Kansas State University Polytechnic campus, and which is conducted as a program of education designed to educate and train individuals as technicians in recognized fields. Programs of technical education include, but not by way of limitation, aeronautical technology inclusive of professional pilot training, construction technology, drafting and design technology, electrical technology, electronic technology, mechanical technology, automatic data processing and computer technology, industrial technology, metals technology, safety technology, tool design technology, cost control technology, surveying technology, industrial production technology, sales service technology, industrial writing technology, communications technology, chemical control technology, quality control technology and such additional programs of technical education which may be specified from time to time by the board of regents.

K-State Polytechnic initiated work in unmanned aircraft systems in the state of Kansas in 2007 and has provided certificates and degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate level in this arena for over 15 years. The institution was the second institution of higher education in the nation to offer the degree program and is currently nationally ranked as the number two program in the United States. Our expertise in this area is used to establish national standards and guide the work being done to safely integrate this technology into the national airspace. To date, we have trained over 4,000 individuals across the nation in applications of this technology. Like the personal computer, unmanned aircraft have quickly emerged as an enabling technology and are used to support multiple industries. There will undoubtedly be several programs across the state in the future as the applicability of this technology is expansive and associate programs will vary in focus.

The unmanned sector within the aviation industry continues to grow at a rapid rate. As the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continues to open access to the National Airspace System (NAS), the demand for qualified Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) pilots will continue to increase. As the FAA develops standards for increasingly complex operations, a robust education and training program will help ensure safe, qualified pilots are available to fill the increased industry demand for operational experts. The varying complexity of UAS operations also implies various levels of education and training are appropriate for different career paths, similar to manned aviation. KSU was the second university to offer a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Technology (BATN) degree with a UAS option in the nation. The four-year degree continues to have merit and will continue to be relevant moving forward. However, we also recognize the merits of a two-year AAS option to serve the blooming UAS industry. As we went down the AAS development path, we felt it was important to have a distinction between the two degree levels, while at the same time ensuring a level of employability by both. After discussing over faculty meetings, we decided to focus on multi-rotor aircraft training at the AAS level, but not to include the more advanced components that include fixed-wing aircraft flight activities. We also did not include manned aircraft training as a component of the curriculum as an added distinction. Another consideration in this regard is the high cost of manned pilot training labs as well as the limited access that other schools would have to offer such courses.

Our vision for this AAS is three-fold:

1. To offer it on our campus to students looking for a two-year option to begin a practical UAS career. The AAS consists entirely of courses in our BATN degree. The implication is that if they choose to complete the AAS and then continue to pursue a four-year program, they are 60 credit hours away from the BATN. We did this consciously, while also maintaining a distinction in expertise that AAS graduates will have vs. BATN graduates (see below).
2. As we forge a deeper relationship with USD 305 to establish the PolyCats Academy, to create a pathway for some high school students to obtain an AAS by the time they graduate high school (USD 305, 2020).
3. In response to conversations with some community colleges and KDOT, we aspire to create curricular partnerships with institutions that want to ensure seamless transfer to our 4-year degree. Those schools selecting to partner could utilize this curriculum and also enter into a “2+2” agreement so their graduates could continue their BS pursuits with KSU.

This proposed degree program will prepare students to serve as UAS flight instructors in multi-rotor aircraft. Recipients of this degree will be qualified to serve as commercial UAS pilots nationwide. Applications include public safety, infrastructure inspection, aerial photography and videography. As the FAA continues to expand their rulemaking, it will also include package delivery among others. For students seeking the continuation of their expertise, graduates of this program will be able to continue to pursue BATN in UAS at Kansas State University’s Polytechnic campus. The proposed curriculum is designed as a “2+2” feeder into the bachelor’s degree. This program will be part of a high school academy we are establishing to serve the Salina, KS area (PolyCats Academy).

Kansas has a long history in fulfilling the needs of the aviation industry. Kansas State University was the second university in the nation to offer a UAS-focused degree. Its UAS department, through its Applied Aviation Research Center (AARC) has developed a national reputation in UAS research, operations and training. Much of the AARC's success is founded on a series of FAA relationships. The AARC is one of 15 core universities in the nation that serves as ASSURE, the FAA's UAS Research Center of Excellence. As a partner with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), the AARC led KDOT's efforts to be granted authorization for advanced operations as one of nine participants in the Presidentially directed UAS Integration Pilot Program. Finally, the FAA chose KSU's UAS program as one of the first members of its new UAS Collegiate Training Initiative program. These activities are capturing national-level attention by various companies of the UAS industry. As these corporate partnerships and the FAA relationships develop, the UAS program is involving students in the advanced operations to prepare them for this rapidly evolving industry. Kansas is an aviation state; Kansas State University has an opportunity to aid in providing skilled aviators that are ready for the workforce. Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus has traditionally offered associates degrees and instituting this degree will lead to increased enrollment in a field that needs skilled workers.

IV. Program Demand:

Market Analysis

This proposed AAS is comprised of half the courses from the existing BATN UAS degree. The purpose of this approach is to create opportunities for students completing this degree to continue on to a 4-year program in a true "2+2" fashion.

Due to the nature of the UAS industry being new, distilling data to the state level was problematic. From a national perspective, data regarding growth, demand, and salaries is included here. Nationally, community colleges with UAS programs are growing. KSU Polytechnic is part of the FAA's UAS Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI). Through the CTI as well as through regional knowledge of our UAS program, we field many calls from community colleges asking for advice on starting a program. At the state level, the Aviation Director of KDOT encouraged K-State to establish a two-year program to be licensed to community colleges across the state, which came from feedback he received when talking to community colleges across the state. Additionally, multiple community colleges and technical colleges continue to contact our UAS Department to explore consulting with them to establish UAS programs to serve their communities. Most of these conversations indicate an interest in a "2+2" program that could feed into our BATN degree. As we looked at this option, we determined that an approach may be to establish a licensing structure in which we create opportunities for partnerships across Kansas to leverage our expertise in this area and expand accessibility to UAS education and careers across Kansas. Additionally, this will help us serve aspiring high school students in our local area.

The Federal Aviation Administration (2019) projects that the commercial UAS fleet nationwide will double its 2019 values by 2024, an indication of the vast growth of the UAS market. The same paper predicts that as "...professional grade small UAS meet feasibility criteria of operations, safety, regulations, and satisfy economics and business principles and enters into the logistics chain via small package delivery, the growth in this sector will likely be phenomenal" (FAA, 2019, p. 53). The same document reports that remote pilots (RPs) "... are set to experience tremendous growth following the growth trends of the commercial sUAS sector. Starting from the base of 162,185 RPs in 2019, commercial activities may require almost 350,000 RPs in 5 years, more than two-fold increase, providing tremendous opportunities for growth in employment associated with commercial activities of UAS. Potential for RPs may enhance even more if larger UAS are used in commercial activities and urban air mobility become a reality in the near future" (FAA, 2019, p.59).

V. Projected Enrollment for the Initial Three Years of the Program

Year	Headcount Per Year		Sem Credit Hrs Per Year	
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Full- Time	Part- Time
Implementation	15		420	
Year 2	20		1040	
Year 3	25		1340	

VI. Employment

According to recent article in Business News Daily (2019):

UAS pilots are in demand. In fact, the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International projected more than 100,000 new jobs will be created in unmanned aircraft by the year 2025. A recent report from Goldman Sachs projected \$17 billion of spending on drones from 2016 to 2020 coming from consumers and another \$13 billion from commercial and civil industries. That's because more professionals, like realtors, security firms, advertising agencies, architects, construction firms and developers are looking for aerial video to do business. (Conlin, 2019)

This same article indicates that the average hourly rate of UAS pilots is \$24.18, with rates varying from \$17.75 to \$78.49 per hour (Conlin, 2019).

VII. Admission and Curriculum

A. Admission Criteria

University Admission Requirements:

Admission to K-State is test optional and requires achieving

- A high school GPA (weighted or unweighted) of 3.25 or higher **OR**
- ACT composite score of 21 **OR** an SAT ERW+M of 1060 or higher

AND, if applicable, achieve a 2.0 GPA or higher on all college credit taken in high school.

B. Curriculum

Year 1: Fall

SCH = Semester Credit Hours

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
UAS 270	Introduction to Unmanned Aircraft Systems	3
Math 100	College Algebra	3
COT 105	Mastering Academic Conversations	3
ENG 100	Expository Writing I	3
	UAS or AVT Elective	3

Year 1: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH=13
AVT 100	Introduction to Aviation	3
Math 150	Plane Trigonometry	3
UAS 115	Multicopter Flt Lab	1
Psych 110	Gen Psych	3
	UAS or AVT Elective	3

Year 2: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH=17
UAS 275	Small Unmanned Aircraft Maintenance	3
COM 106	Public speaking I	3
PHYS 113	General Physics I	4
UAS 312	UAS Flight Instructor Ground School	3
UAS 314	Multi-Rotor Instructor Flight Lab	1
	Elective	3

Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
AVT 340	Human Factors in Aviation	3
UAS 272	UAS Safety Fundamentals	3
UAS 370	Design & Construct	3
UAS 474	UAS Process Data	3
ECON 110/120	Principals of Micro or Macro Econ	3

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours 60

VIII. Core Faculty

Note: * Next to Faculty Name Denotes Director of the Program, if applicable

FTE: 1.0 FTE = Full-Time Equivalency Devoted to Program

Faculty Name	Rank	Highest Degree	Tenure Track Y/N	Academic Area of Specialization	FTE to Proposed Program
Kurt Carraway*	Dept Head	MS	N	UAS training, CRM, Aeronautical Decision Making, Safety	0.3
David Burchfield	Professor	MS	N	Design & Construction, Data Processing and Exploitation	0.3
Sam Kleinbeck	Professor	BS	N	UAS training, CFII, CFI, Safety, Maintenance and Repair	0.3
Travis Balthazor	Instructor	MS	N	UAS training, CFII, CFI, Safety, Regulations	0.1

Number of graduate assistants assigned to this program **0**

IX. Expenditure and Funding Sources (List amounts in dollars. Provide explanations as necessary.)

A. EXPENDITURES	First FY	Second FY	Third FY
Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions			
Faculty	\$95,235.91	\$95,235.91	\$95,235.91
Administrators (<i>other than instruction time</i>)	0	0	0
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0
Support Staff for Administration (<i>e.g., secretarial</i>)	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits (<i>total for all groups</i>)	\$28,570.77	\$28,570.77	\$28,570.77
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Total Existing Personnel Costs – Reassigned or Existing	\$123,806.68	\$123,806.68	\$123,806.68
Personnel – – New Positions			
Faculty	0	0	0
Administrators (<i>other than instruction time</i>)	0	0	0
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0
Support Staff for Administration (<i>e.g., secretarial</i>)	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits (<i>total for all groups</i>)	0	0	0
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Total Existing Personnel Costs – New Positions	0	0	0
Start-up Costs - - One-Time Expenses			
Library/learning resources			
Equipment/Technology			
Physical Facilities: Construction or Renovation			
Other			
Total Start-up Costs	0	0	0
Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses			
Supplies/Expenses	0	0	0
Library/learning resources	0	0	0
Equipment/Technology	0	0	0
Travel	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total Operating Costs			
GRAND TOTAL COSTS	\$123,806.68	\$123,806.68	\$123,806.68

B. FUNDING SOURCES <i>(projected as appropriate)</i>	Current	First FY (New)	Second FY (New)	Third FY (New)
Tuition / State Funds		\$122,934	\$304,408	\$392,218
Student Fees	0	0	0	0
Other Sources				
GRAND TOTAL FUNDING		\$122,934	\$304,408	\$392,218
C. Projected Surplus/Deficit (+/-) (Grand Total Funding <i>minus</i> Grand Total Costs)		-\$872.68	\$180,601.32	\$268,411.32

X. Expenditures and Funding Sources Explanations

A. Expenditures

Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions

No new courses will be offered for the two-year program and there are existing seats available in the UAS bachelor's degree to support program growth during the first year. Additional sections of the required courses can be added during years 2 and 3 within the capacity of existing staff.

As indicated in VII, above, the three primary faculty involved are Carraway, Burchfield and Kleinbeck, each calculated at 30% FTE for this program. Additionally, Balthazor is a part-time faculty member and will contribute at 10%.

Personnel – – New Positions

There is no anticipated need for additional personnel within the first three years.

Start-up Costs – One-Time Expenses

There is no need for additional start-up costs; these courses are also offered in the Bachelor program and there are seats available.

Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses

Additional recurring expenses are minimal, as equipment/technology is already available and being used for the bachelor's degree.

B. Revenue: Funding Sources

Tuition will be the primary funding source for the program. Using current distribution of resident and non-resident enrollment in the bachelor degree, K-State Polytechnic Kansas resident tuition rates (resident = \$292.70 per SCH, non-resident = \$788.80 per SCH), and the SCH table in Section IV Projected Enrollments, we calculated the tuition dollars that would be generated from the program each year. We are conservatively calculating everything based off of in-resident tuition rates for the first three years of the program as the initial implementation will be targeting regional students at the high school level as well as those seeking to start off their collegiate career regionally (similar to community college and technical school students).

Flight training fees are billed separate from tuition and support all training operations through restricted fee accounts. These expenses are not included in this analysis as faculty and resources for classroom instruction are supported through tuition revenue.

C. Projected Surplus/Deficit

With no new faculty or resources needed, the program should experience a minor deficit in year one, and then become a surplus.

XI. References

Conlin, B. (2019, May 30). How to Use a Drone for Your Business. *Business News Daily*.

<https://www.businessnewsdaily.com/10967-become-commercial-drone-pilot.html>

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). (2019). Unmanned Aircraft Systems. *FAA Aerospace Forecasts*.

https://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation/aerospace_forecasts/media/unmanned_aircraft_systems.pdf

USD 305 Salina Public Schools. (2020, Nov 30). Opportunities Expand for HS Students.

https://www.usd305.com/news/featured_news/opportunities_expand_for_hs_students



September 7th, 2021

Blake Flanders, President and CEO Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St Ste 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

On behalf of the 19 Kansas Community Colleges Boards of Trustees, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Associate Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) being proposed by Kansas State University (KSU) Polytechnic in Salina. We strongly oppose approval of this new program. The program being proposed is the exact type of program duplication that the Kansas Board of Regents and other policy makers have been focused upon, ensuring that when new programs are offered there is a clearly unmet need which will help the Kansas economy and one that could not be fulfilled by another existing institution or program. Cloud County Community College has this same program less than 60 miles away, they would be willing to deliver it to Salina high schools if there is indeed interest, and they are willing to partner with KSU on a transfer pathway to ensure a smooth transfer of the credits for students who may want to pursue a four-year degree at KSU Polytechnic. However, these efforts have not been pursued prior to suggesting a duplicative program be created at the associate degree level, which has long been the role of Kansas Community and Technical Colleges.

Only after this program was submitted (and many letters of opposition were generated in March) did KSU reach out to Cloud County Community College for a conversation. However, while Cloud has offered multiple times to partner to ensure successful transfer and articulation, no suggestion of a transfer and articulation agreement have been suggested by KSU. The mission creep of a four-year institution into the area of a new associate degree which could be achieved through an existing community college in close proximity is troubling. While there are a few associate degrees available at four-year institutions they were historically grandfathered in or are in a very niche area. In fact, the community and technical colleges did support a very niche associate degree be offered at Pittsburg State University within the last year which focused on training technical education teachers. This made sense as it did not duplicate programs and was attached to the teacher training mission of PSU in technical education. We work hard to support all sectors of the system when programs make sense and serve an unmet need for Kansas students. However, that is not the case in this situation. If four-year institutions are allowed to start offering associate degrees, it is highly likely that two-year sector institutions may be interested in offering bachelor's degrees, as has become a nationwide trend. The KBOR policies in place, which clearly define associate degrees as the purview of Kansas Community and Technical Colleges, have served the system well and should be followed in this case. While KSU Polytechnic does have a unique mission, that does not alleviate the need to ensure programs are not duplicated.

Additionally, the student population identified as being served by this new program warrants concern. The proposal states that the program will target the high school population. This is interesting because in that case, the classes would have to be paid for by the students, by the USD, granted tuition relief by KSU, or by a donor. If the same classes were offered by Cloud County Community College the classes would be able to be fully funded under Excel in CTE/SB 155. However, because KSU is not allowed to access Excel in CTE/SB 155 funds, the classes would not be able to be offered at no cost to students, parents, or the school district. There is concern that the end goal may be to try to find a pathway to make these classes offered by KSU as Excel in CTE/SB 155 eligible. This situation would be highly problematic and could jeopardize the great work occurring through Excel in CTE/SB 155 at Kansas Community and Technical Colleges. We value the great work occurring at KSU, however in this case, allowing a new duplicative associate degree without an effort to utilize the existing system for strong transfer and articulation agreements does not most efficiently serve Kansas students.

Sincerely on behalf of Kansas Community College Boards of Trustees,

Nancy Ingram

Nancy Ingram
President
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees
913-461-5381
nqi1475@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Morgan", is positioned above the typed name and title of Heather Morgan.

Heather Morgan
Executive Director
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees
785-221-2828
hmorgan@kacct.org

CC: Scott Smathers, Daniel Archer

BARTON

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

September 2, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

In consideration of the recent request by the Kansas State University to extend its coursework to include an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), I wish to share my concern. This concern is based on two conditions.

The first condition hinges on the differentiation of mission that distinguishes the two and four year sectors. For decades, it has been rightly recognized that public universities emphasize bachelor's, master's, and doctoral studies. Kansas State University has long maintained this mission and has a rich history of doing so with great success. Through application, the move to establish an UAS associate degree program would clearly upend the roles and expectations that distinguish the mission of the two and four year sectors. Would not such application and perhaps approval of KSU's application, serve as the basis for the two year sector to justify four year degrees and therefore becoming an element of its respective mission? In addition, mission overlap can lead to host of predictable developments that would disrupt mission balance - oversight, funding, and accountability to name a few.

Secondly, with a similar associates program in place at Cloud County Community College and like interests of other two year institution to seek this programming capacity, should not the attention of the four year sector be focused on transferability of student course credits? As well, I do not believe that demand has outpaced the capacity of the two year sector. In our world of scarce resources, I would advocate for an efficient course articulation pathway that would maximize student preparation in meeting employer demands.

With the above thoughts, I petition the Regent body to disapprove Kansas State University's application to provide an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Carl Heilman, Ph.D.
President

Sincerely,



Tricia Reiser
Board of Trustees, Vice Chair

cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President and CEO Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St., Ste 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

Butler Community College appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) proposed by Kansas State University (KSU). This degree program was initially proposed by KSU early in spring 2021 and then removed from consideration. With the recent email in mid-August that KSU is once again requesting approval for the AAS in UAS, on behalf of Butler Community College, I am submitting this letter in strong opposition to approval of this request.

In December 2017, Butler and KSU Polytechnic announced a partnership for an UAS Early College Academy providing an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to complete an AAS in UAS while still in high school. Once a student graduated from Butler's UAS program, that student, upon acceptance, would transfer seamlessly into Kansas State Polytechnic's UAS program and within two years receive a bachelor's degree. The student also had the option to directly enter the workforce with this cutting edge education for careers in agriculture, real estate, law enforcement, fire science, industry, and the military.

At that time, Kansas State Polytechnic was one of the first universities in the nation to offer a bachelor's degree in UAS. KSU Polytechnic noted a joint partnership with Butler would ensure career preparation for the highly competitive UAS job market would remain accessible and affordable for the citizens of Kansas. Only two years later, KSU determined enrollment in the Early College Academy didn't support continuation of the partnership so it was put "on-hold".

The current proposal identifies the population to be served is high school students and with Butler's Early College Academy model for high school student enrollment, Cloud County Community College's approved UAS program and WSU Tech's recently approved UAS program, approval of KSU's AAS degree will simply duplicate existing programs and create "mission creep" into a very strong 2-year Kansas system already charged with offering associate degree and certificate programs. It also creates the potential for KSU to then access tiered technical funding, of which there is already an existing funding gap, and Excel in CTE funding. KSU has an opportunity to partner with existing programs to strengthen educational opportunities and career pathways in the field of unmanned aircraft and they should do so.

Approval for KSU's request to offer an associate degree and duplicate current programs will then provide an opportunity for the 2-year Kansas community colleges to capitalize on conversations with our Higher Learning Commission Liaisons seeking support to offer bachelor degrees in Kansas. Community Colleges have the ability to provide bachelor's degrees at lower cost, in smaller, more personal class settings to increase student retention and success and taught by credentialed professors.

I strongly urge the Technical Education Authority and the Kansas Board of Regents to deny KSU's proposal for an AAS in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Thank you for your consideration and please know I'm available for any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Kimberly W. Krull". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "K" at the beginning.

Kimberly W Krull, Ph.D.
President

cc: Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs

CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Concordia Campus

P.O. Box 1002
2221 Campus Drive
Concordia, KS 66901
785.243.1435
Fax: 785.243.1043

Geary County Campus

631 Caroline Avenue
Junction City, KS 66441
785.238.8010
Fax: 785.238.2898

Online & Outreach

1.800.729.5101
www.cloud.edu

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President & CEO Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear President Flanders:

Cloud County Community College (CCCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program request submitted by Kansas State University (KSU) Polytechnic in Salina. CCCC strongly opposes the approval of this program as we currently offer the same degree 50 miles from Salina. Since the original request to offer this program last March, CCCC has tried to work with KSU to partner on a transfer pathway to provide students with seamless transfer into a four-year degree at KSU. However, our effort has not been met with the same willingness to partner.

Per our phone conversation and email follow up with Provost Tabor on March 17, 2021, we were encouraged about the possibility of building a partnership regarding UAS. After several needs to reschedule by KSU Polytechnic, the meeting finally occurred on June 17th in Salina. We received a tour of the facilities and had discussion during the tour but were never asked to sit down afterwards to discuss partnership. However, we did schedule a follow up visit for KSU Polytechnic to visit CCCC on August 27th to tour our facilities and meet with our faculty. Before that meeting could occur, KSU submitted their program request again to offer an AAS in UAS. During the meeting on August 27th, it was shared that their intention was always to bring back their request. CCCC asked several times during the meeting for the opportunity to partner but were told that it is within their right to offer the degree per statute. However, of this duplication of program creates the possibility of unfettered duplication of other programs and services across the state.

The Kansas Universities and the Kansas Community Colleges have a tradition of strong partnerships through the transfer function of the system. It would stand to reason that KSU Polytechnic should collaborate with CCCC to partner to achieve a focused effort by both institutions to serve our students. Unfortunately, this process hasn't had the opportunity to be thoroughly visited yet. Although KSU Polytechnic has a unique mission, it does not alleviate concerns regarding program duplication. Additionally, it is in the student's best interest to earn their AAS in UAS through CCCC where, as high school students, they would have access to SB155/Excel in CTE funds. This leads to a separate concern that KSU will then request SB155/Excel in CTE funds, which could jeopardize those funds. Ultimately, if KSU's request is approved, it could lead to community and technical colleges being less comfortable innovating and investing in starting new programs if universities could simply start programs in direct competition with the community or technical college program.

KSU is an exemplary institution, serving students for their bachelor's, master's, and/or doctoral degree. However, their request lends to program duplication and mission creep. KBOR clearly defines associate degrees as the mission of Kansas Community and Technical Colleges. Community colleges are the value provider for many Kansans who are seeking a two-year degree or short-term certificate that they can use to enter the workforce. Rather than create a duplicated program, KSU Polytechnic should utilize a partnership with CCCC for transfer and articulation as a better use of state resources to meet the education needs of students in UAS.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amber Knoettgen".

Amber Knoettgen
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Pounds".

Jesse Pounds
Chairman, Board of Trustees

cc: Scott Smathers, Daniel Archer

Cloud County Community College prepares students to lead successful lives and enhances the vitality of our communities.

Cloud County Community College

Kansas State University Technology and Aviation (Polytechnic)
 UAS AAS

Year 1: Fall SCH = Semester Credit Hours

Course # Course Name SCH=15

UAS 270 Introduction to Unmanned Aircraft Systems 3

Introduction to the history of Unmanned Aircraft Systems and survey of current UAS platforms, terminology, challenges to airspace integration and operational theory [all covered in CCCC's UA100 Introduction to sUAS]. Students will also receive training in the regulations contained in 14 CFR Part 107 (commercial rules for small UAS) [covered in CCCC's UA110 sUAS Ground School], and will be required to earn their Remote Pilot Certificate with sUAS rating during the course. [There are a limited number of testing facilities in the US. Salina is the closest test location for Cloud students]

Cloud = UA100 Introduction to sUAS . . . 3

This course is an introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems. It will cover the safety requirements to operate in the National Air Space in the United States. It will also evaluate the role of the FAA and local laws which govern the operation of UAV's. Other organizations which work to keep citizens and operators safe and efficient in their operation of UAV's will also be introduced. Through the course, the different types of drones and applications in today's world will be explored.

Cloud = UA110 sUAS Ground School . . . 3

The sUAS Ground School Course sets a sturdy foundation of required aeronautical knowledge for remote pilots of UAS less than 55 pounds. The curriculum addresses all pertinent aeronautical knowledge factors outlined by the FAA for the Unmanned Aircraft General (UAG) examination and augments those with safety concepts and practices to develop well-informed and responsible remote pilots. Students who successfully complete the course receive a certificate of completion from ARGUS Unmanned and are well prepared to pass the UAG exam.

Math 100 College Algebra 3

COT 105 Mastering Academic Conversations 3

ENG 100 Expository Writing I 3

UAS or AVT Elective 3

Year 1: Spring

Course #Course Name SCH=13

AVT 100 Introduction to Aviation 3

This course examines the history of aviation and a look at the future. Students discuss the attributes of an aviation professional, careers, career planning, and pilot certification. Students consider historical events and their relationship to current aviation aspects. The interdependency and synergy in the development of military aircraft, the space program, as well as the growth of commercial and general aviation is discussed. Students use the Internet for various research

Cloud County Community College

projects concerning the past, present, and future of aviation. [Cloud’s program covers all of this with a *focus* on unmanned aircraft in UA100 Introduction to sUAS.]

Cloud = UA100 Introduction to sUAS . . . 3

This course is an introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems. It will cover the safety requirements to operate in the National Air Space in the United States. It will also evaluate the role of the FAA and local laws which govern the operation of UAV’s. Other organizations which work to keep citizens and operators safe and efficient in their operation of UAV’s will also be introduced. Through the course, the different types of drones and applications in today’s world will be explored.

Math 150 Plane Trigonometry 3

UAS 115 Multirotor Flt Lab 1

Basic through advanced flight training on multi-rotor unmanned aircraft, beginning with small quad-copters and progressing to larger, more complex multi-rotor platforms. This course establishes the foundation for additional training necessary to become a multi-rotor flight instructor. [Flight training on multi-rotor unmanned aircraft is an inherent part of multiple UA courses in Cloud’s sUAS program.]

Psych 110 Gen Psych 3

UAS or AVT Elective 3

Year 2: Fall

Course # Course Name SCH=17

UAS 275 Small Unmanned Aircraft Maintenance 3

This course provides students with the knowledge and skill necessary to repair and maintain both fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft during field operations and to ensure continued airworthiness throughout the service life of the aircraft. Instruction emphasizes safe practices, provide an introduction to basic shop tools and machinery used in maintaining sUAS, and develop fundamental skills in platform fabrication and the troubleshooting/repair of the circuits, subsystems and components typically found on sUAS aircraft. [Cloud’s UA210 sUAS Systems and Conceptual Design course is nearly identical with an emphasis on rotary-wing aircraft and the addition of 3D printing.]

Cloud = UA210 sUAS Systems and Conceptual Design . . . 3

This course will introduce the components required for remote controlled flight by a multi-rotor vehicle. Within the course the structural pieces of the UAV will be constructed by 3D printer techniques and all components which cannot be printed will be added to the design with a finished flying UAV by the end of the course. Through this process students will learn the various laws of physics and construction and repair techniques to create an airworthy multi-copter.

COM 106 Public speaking I 3

PHYS 113 General Physics I 4

UAS 312 UAS Flight Instructor Ground School 3

Intended to prepare the student for the role of UAS flight instructor. Focuses on the fundamentals of flight instruction. Lecture topics cover the techniques and the procedures

necessary to generate, organize and present lessons in instructional environment while building necessary skills and emphasizing aspects of instruction necessary to ensure student competencies in the areas of UAS field and flight operations. [\[This is an alarming approach to take with high school students who will have completed only 13 credit hours of UAS/Aviation coursework. The role of flight instructor is exceptionally grave in aviation. K-State should explain not just to KBOR, but to the FAA what is their expectation for high school students to succeed in flight instructor coursework given the need for exceptionally high levels of maturity. Will high school students truly internalize the immense responsibility that is required in the role of flight instructor?\]](#)

UAS 314	Multi-Rotor Instructor Flight Lab	1
	This course refines advanced multi-rotor skills and provides the practical experience necessary to produce competent multi-rotor flight instructors. [Same concerns as above.]	
Elective		3

Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
AVT 340	Human Factors in Aviation	3

Explores the physical environment and physiology limitations imposed on the aviation professional. Health, fatigue, human behavior and errors, communication, team building, leadership, situation awareness, crew resource management, judgment, and aeronautical decision making are studied to achieve safe and efficient operation. [\[all covered in CCCC's UA150 sUAS Personnel, Safety, and Crew Resource Management with a focus on unmanned aviation professionals\]](#)

[Cloud = UA150 sUAS Personnel, Safety, and Crew Resource Management . . . 3](#)

[sUAS Personnel, Safety, and Crew Resource Management course objective is to provide the basic knowledge needed to integrate drones into the National Airspace and to develop a workflow for UAV missions. The importance of safety and mitigating risk is of paramount importance for UAV's to be considered a viable means of collecting data in the National Airspace. This course is not intended to be a management of personnel but a framework to develop safe, efficient, workflow for all UAV missions.](#)

UAS 272	UAS Safety Fundamentals	3
	Introduction to aviation safety, with an emphasis on best practices for safe operation of unmanned aircraft systems. Topics include safety/risk assessments, human factors, crew resource management, aeronautical decision-making, risk management, and safety assurance. [This appears to have a great deal of overlap with K-State's AVT 340 course. When a high school student takes 60 hours of college credit, their step away from standard high school curriculum should be handled with efficiency.]	

UAS 370	Design & Construct	3
	Topics include: Unmanned Aircraft System platform, payload and component design and interfacing, system and vehicle maintenance [all covered in CCCC's UA210 Systems and Conceptual Design] , and systems integration [covered in CCCC's UA201 Command, Control, and Communications] .	

[Cloud = UA201 sUAS Command, Control, and Communications . . . 3](#)

Cloud County Community College

Command, Control, and Communications will be covered as it relates to the team operation of a UAS. Students will learn the various types of systems and controls required to operate a UAV in the National Air Space. They will learn the devices needed and the reliability of the differing technologies for safe and effective flight. Both hardware components and software control solutions will be covered.

Cloud = UA210 sUAS Systems and Conceptual Design . . . 3

This course will introduce the components required for remote controlled flight by a multi-rotor vehicle. Within the course the structural pieces of the UAV will be constructed by 3D printer techniques and all components which cannot be printed will be added to the design with a finished flying UAV by the end of the course. Through this process students will learn the various laws of physics and construction and repair techniques to create an airworthy multi-copter.

UAS 474

UAS Process Data

3

Students are introduced to basic theory, history, and practical applications of remote sensing technology, with an emphasis on high spatial resolution multispectral aerial imagery collected using unmanned aircraft systems. Other topics include geographic information systems, aerial image interpretation, sensor resolution, orthomosaicing, georegistration, vegetation indices, and image classification. [all covered in CCCC's WE240 GIS/GPS and a required course in Cloud's sUAS AAS]

Cloud = WE240 GIS/GPS

The GIS/GPS course is designed to provide a basic working knowledge of Geographical Information Systems and Global Positioning Systems as they relate to the operation of small UAVs. Upon completion of this course, the student will understand the timeline of development for GIS, GPS, and UAVs. The student will be able to demonstrate necessary software configuration, operation and maintenance of a UAV for purposes of aerial imaging. The course will be taught with the intent of expanding one's ability to complete inspection of wind turbine blades, power lines and substations, agricultural surveys and the integration of sports and event photography.

ECON 110/120

Principals of Micro or Macro Econ

3

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours

60



September 8, 2021

Kansas Board of Regents
ATTN: Scott Smathers
Vice President of Workforce Development
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

RE: Kansas State University's Request for AAS in Unmanned Air Systems Program

Dear Mr. Smathers:

I recently received notice from the KBOR staff that Kansas State University (KSU) is requesting authorization to add an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems at the KSU Polytechnic Campus in Salina. I'm concerned about the TEA or KBOR granting authorization for a university with a bachelor and graduate mission to venture into the offering of Associate degrees for the following reasons:

- Duplication of Existing Programs in the Region. Cloud County Community College is already equipped and prepared to offer this certificate and associate degree program in the region. As KSU provided in their application packet, they have already announced a partnership with USD 305 Salina to provide the Associate degree program to high school students prior to approval of the degree by the TEA and/or KBOR. KSU is already approved and offering a bachelor degree in this area.
- Mission Creep. Each of the educational entities in the State of Kansas have clearly defined missions to support their communities, counties, and regions in the state. The mission of community colleges is to provide certificate and associate degrees to our communities and region as needed to prepare students for the workforce or for transfer to a university. Providing associate degree programming for area high schools does not appear to be a part of KSU's stated mission

Again, I am concerned about the request for a university to offer associate degrees in Kansas. As noted an associate degree option at a community college is already available in the region.

Sincerely,

Marlon Thornburg

Marlon Thornburg, Ed.D
President
Coffeyville Community College



September 8, 2021

Vice President Smathers
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Vice President Smathers,

I am writing on behalf of Colby Community College to express my concern regarding the proposed Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate Degree program from Kansas State University. In my opinion, this program is duplicative, as a variation of the program is currently being offered at Butler Community College and Cloud County Community College. Is there current evidence that supports that these institutions are not meeting the needs of the industry or has the need/demand exceeded their current enrollment capacity?

Kansas State University is a baccalaureate, master, and doctoral degree offering Regent University. To introduce an associate degree in this field would seemingly stray from their mission of serving students who seek to obtain one of the aforementioned types of degrees. Ultimately, the continual pursuit of offering associate degrees from Regent Universities will hurt the community and technical colleges, as it would hurt Regent Universities if the two-year sector were to pursue baccalaureate offerings.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Your considerations are greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Seth Macon Carter
President, Colby Community College

cc: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Blake Flanders, President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DR. DENNIS C. RITTLE

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President and CEO Kansas Board of Regents

1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520

Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

In response to the proposed Associate Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) proposed by Kansas State University (KSU) Polytechnic in Salina, Cowley College firmly opposes the approval of this new program. This proposal appears to be a clear example of mission creep as one or more public two-year colleges in the state of Kansas could readily offer such a program and keep with the mission of two-year colleges. Additional concerns and nuances to this particular proposal are well articulated in a joint letter from the Kansas Association of Community Colleges Trustees (KACCT) dated September 7, 2021 and signed by President Nancy Ingram and Executive Director Heather Morgan. Cowley College supports the aforementioned KACCT correspondence.

Respectfully,

Dennis C. Rittle, Ph.D.

COWLEY COLLEGE

125 S. Second | PO Box 1147 | Arkansas City, KS 67005

800.593.CCCC | cowley.edu



DODGE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

P: 620.225.1321
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dc3.edu

2501 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

I am writing on behalf of Dodge City Community College to express my concern regarding Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate Degree program. I feel this is a duplicate program that is currently being offered at Butler Community College and Cloud County Community College. Do you have documentation that shows these colleges are not meeting their goals and needs of the industry? I feel it would be more beneficial to increase capacity through the use of the institutions already producing graduates who earn associate degrees and/or certificates.

Kansas State University is a baccalaureate, master, and doctoral offering university. To offer this program from a Regent University would hurt technical and community colleges. For those who are interested in earning a bachelor's degree, strong transfer and articulation pathways can, and should, be established so that the needs of students and employers are met in the most efficient, cost-effective manner.

Thank you for your considering Dodge City Community College's thoughts in this matter and I urge you to please decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program for Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harold Nolte".

Dr. Harold E. Nolte
President, Dodge City Community College

cc: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development




Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders,

This letter is submitted in opposition to the application of Kansas State University – Polytechnical Institution to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. As a two-year institution in the state of Kansas, Garden City Community College views this application as an entry point for the four-year sector to offer associate degree options. Community colleges are designed for access and affordability, but this application serves as a platform for mission creep for KSU to offer the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of General Studies, and the Associate of Applied Science degrees. If the Kansas Board of Regents allows the regent universities to award Associate degrees, there is a cultivation of duplicative services. There currently exists community colleges who offer this program, with Cloud County Community College being in the same service region of KSU. It would be better use of state resources to develop partnerships or bridge agreements between the 2-year and 4-year sector. There has been strong collaboration and partnership on articulation and transfer agreements between the 2-year and 4-year sector in Kansas and those partnerships need to continue to develop and be accentuated. Rather than convoluting the system with the approval of this application, the Kansas higher education system should be looking at measures to incentivize and encourage collaboration and partnerships, not creating divisiveness.

The majority of technical and career training and workforce development is already occurring at Kansas community colleges. If this program is approved, it will create an undesirable impact on the Kansas higher education system. Will community colleges be allowed to offer baccalaureate degrees in Kansas next? Several states have laid the groundwork for bachelor's degrees to be offered at community colleges. The most efficient use of state resources is to align existing programs with transfer options. Community colleges are created on the premise of access and affordability. Garden City Community College does not support the approval of this application. We need to return to a practice of collaboration and partnership among the 2-year and 4-year sector and keep the mission of each sector aligned with the sector. Together, we will build a stronger Kansas through collaboration and partnership among the higher education system.

Sincerely,


Ryan J. Ruda Ed.D.
President Garden City Community College



HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

September 8, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

Highland Community College is onboard with collaboration efforts among four-year universities, technical colleges and other Kansas community colleges. We have heard over and over again the message of not duplicating programs. Upon appearance, the message does not seem as strongly heard among Kansas Regent universities.

Kansas State University is seeking to offer an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Can they not partner with Cloud County Community College to offer this degree in their area? If the demand is so great, wouldn't Cloud County Community College be poised in meeting the demand with an already approved program?

Highland Community College's Board of Trustees and Administration are concerned with the message being one-sided and the Regent's institutions not being held to the same standard of working with other Kansas institutions. We have students tell us frequently they wish Highland was again, a four-year institution. Is this something we should be considering as four-year institutions begin moving towards offering two-year degrees?

Kansas State University has always been friend to Highland Community College. We send many of our students there to complete a Bachelor's degree. We would also hate to find ourselves in a similar situation as Cloud County Community College when another four-year university decides they want to offer an Associate's degree that is readily available.

We urge the Kansas Board Regents to deny Kansas State University's request to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Thank you for allowing us to present our concerns.

Sincerely,

Deborah Fox
President, Highland Community College

Office of the President

September 8, 2021

President Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders,

I am writing on behalf of Independence Community College to express our concerns regarding the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate Degree program being proposed by Kansas State University.

Similar programs are already offered by Cloud County Community College and Butler Community College. Cloud County Community College is less than 60 miles away from Kansas State University Polytechnic in Salina. I believe Cloud County Community College is both willing to provide this program to Salina-area schools and partner with KSU Polytechnic to create a transfer pathway. The expansion of this program into areas already offered by community and technical colleges is a cause for concerns related to mission creep. Is there evidence to support community colleges cannot meet the needs of Kansas industry leaders in this sector?

Kansas State University is an innovative and dynamic provider of a quality education. The institution has a long history of providing exceptional baccalaureate, master, and doctoral degrees. I am proud to have such a fine institution as a Regent University in our state. In this situation, I believe that the proposed Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate Degree program is duplicative.

I urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline the proposal to launch an Unmanned Aircraft Systems Associate degree program at Kansas State University. Thank you for thoughtful consideration of our concerns. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Vincent Bowhay, Ed.D.
President
Independence Community College

cc: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice President, Academic Affairs
Dr. Scott Smathers, Vice President, Workforce Development
Heather Morgan, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees



**JOHNSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

12345 College Blvd. • Overland Park, KS • 66210-1299

September 2, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

Earlier this year I sent a letter to you outlining the initial concerns about Kansas State University's desire to expand its offerings to include an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The concerns I shared, mission creep and competition with existing associate degree programs, have not changed.

My primary concern with the proposed UAS associate degree program at Kansas State is that this is an example of mission creep. As a Regent University, Kansas State University is charged with serving students seeking a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree. They are an exemplary university, serving well the students within their current programs. That said, offering a new associate degree program expands their work into areas that are clearly within the role of community and technical colleges. This offering opens a door that has been hotly debated in recent months by the Board of Regents, resulting in a procedural step to include the community and technical colleges in the approval process through BAASC should such offerings be brought forward in the future.

The second concern is that we have community colleges in the state of Kansas, such as Cloud County Community College, that already offer comparable programs. Does employment demand exceed the capacity of our Community and Technical College system? Would it not make more sense to increase capacity through use of the institutions already charged with producing graduates who earn associate degrees and/or certificates? For those who are interested in earning a bachelor's degree, strong transfer and articulation pathways can, and should, be established so that the needs of students and employers are met in the most efficient, cost-effective manner.

When considering these two concerns in tandem, I strongly urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,

Andy Bowne, Ed.D.
President

cc: Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Mike Johnson, Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority
Heather Morgan, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Mark Watkins, Ed.D.

200 S. 14th Street
Parsons, KS 67357

P. 620.820.1223

F. 620.421.0921

markw@labette.edu

www.labette.edu

Friday, September 3, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders,

Recently, K-State pulled their request to offer a two-year degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). However, we've been recently informed of K-State's proposal to move forward on the AAS degree in UAS which is a concern. I am concerned with future Kansas universities who pursue two-year degrees as part of their offerings.

Please know, I fully support Kansas universities. My family has earned multiple undergraduate and graduate degrees from every public Kansas university. We happily support Kansas universities with our tax dollars.

Common understanding indicates when revenues decrease, competition for students becomes more aggressive. Fortunately, our Kansas institutions of higher learning have been working through KCOG to make transfers from community colleges to universities seamless. While this has not always been easy, this does demonstrate the willingness to work together in support of our students and taxpayers. We also work together to establish articulation agreements to provide students with several viable options.

However, allowing universities to cross the line into the two-year sector becomes problematic. I am aware of previous two-year degrees made available by our universities and am concerned about further exploitation for additional offerings when attempting to shore up revenues during these difficult times.

Labette Community College does not support K-State's proposal for the AAS in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The Regents have voiced concern regarding the propagation of additional associate degrees at universities, and I believe this policy position makes sense.

Contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark Watkins

President

Labette Community College

Cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

Neosho County Community College

September 7, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

It is my understanding that Kansas State University is hoping to expand its offerings to include an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Neosho County Community College is asking that this request by Kansas State University be denied.

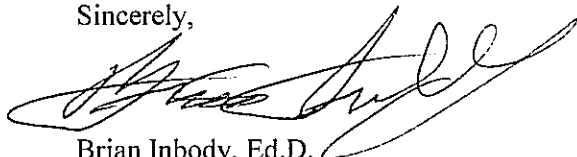
It has been NCCC's practice to not stand against new programs offered by other institutions and for the last 10 years or longer we have filed no letters of concern on any programs, even when neighboring institutions have offered similar programs to ours. We have felt that the market should decide what programs succeed and which ones fail, and that efforts to control the free market of programs have resulted in fewer opportunities for Kansans. Any effort to address non-duplication with State control has ended poorly, taking away local control and holding back the mission of individual colleges.

Kansas State University is a fine institution of higher education and a point of pride for the State of Kansas. My daughter is a student at KSU currently, so you can see that I believe this statement beyond just words to the point that I am trusting K-State with the education of my daughter. It is not a matter of quality or capacity to offer said degree which gives me pause. The issue, of course, is mission creep.

I join my fellow two-year sector institutions to raise our concerns about any four-year institution adding any associate's degree beyond those legacy associates degrees approved in the distant past. Speaking as a community college president with five other community colleges within easy driving distance I know how important it is to stick to my mission and respect the boundaries with my neighboring colleges in order for us all to meet the needs of the region. Any public four-year institution should respect the boundaries in the form of educational offerings that exist between different classifications of institutions.

I strongly urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,



Brian Inbody, Ed.D.
President

cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

800 West 14th Street
Chanute, KS 66720
620.431.2820

Online Campus
www.neosho.edu
800.729.6222

900 East Logan Street
Ottawa, KS 66067
785.242.2067

The Mission of Neosho County Community College is to Enrich Our Communities and Students' Lives

September 7, 2020


Dr. Blake Flanders
President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

It is my understanding that Kansas State University is seeking approval for an Associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). I strongly oppose this request for the following reasons. Cloud County Community College already offers this program and they are geographically close. This request makes little sense to duplicate a program that is located nearby. Another concern with the proposed UAS associate degree program at Kansas State is that this is a strong example of mission creep. As a Regent University, Kansas State's mission is serving students seeking a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree. Offering a new associate degree program expands their work into areas that are clearly within the role of community and technical colleges, which is opens a door that has been hotly debated in recent months by the Board of Regents, including a determination being made this past month for a procedural step to include the community and technical colleges in the approval process through BAASC should such offerings be brought forward in the future.

I strongly urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,



Michael Calvert
President

cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development

August 19, 2021

Samantha Christy-Dangermond
Director, Academic Affairs
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Re: Kansas State University-proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program

Dear Director Christy-Dangermond,

The Kansas Technical College Presidents received notification regarding the above referenced proposal August 18, 2021. The Kansas Technical College Association opposes the request from Kansas State University for the AAS degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Further communication from individual member colleges voicing their objection to this proposal will also be forthcoming.

This proposal duplicates current programs being offered by other colleges in contravention of current Kansas Board of Regents policy. In considering new programs KBOR policy states “The minimization of unnecessary program duplication is a high priority of the Kansas Board of Regents”. Both Cloud County Community College (CCCC) and WSU-Tech offer programs in UAS.

New program proposals per KBOR policy requires that the entity applying “shall determine if each proposed program is similar to others in the state and may serve the same potential student population” and if it is determined “that one or more similar programs exist” the program proposal narrative shall take into account “the ability/inability to offer the program collaboratively.” This proposal by K-State does not identify similar programs already existing or examine offering the new program collaboratively with other two-year colleges.

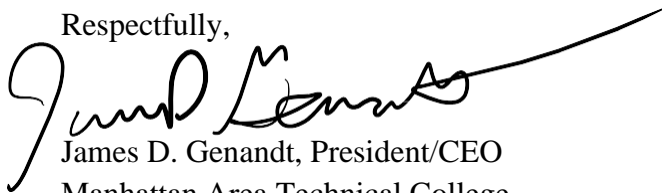
KBOR policy further states that “...the Board of Regents discourages the state universities from offering associate degrees in academic or technical programs where the baccalaureate is available...”. In this proposal Kansas State University details the fact that it already offers a baccalaureate degree in this area begging the question how this proposal is not diametrically opposed to KBOR policy.

Instead of approving a new program in UAS, our member colleges strongly encourage K-State to collaborate with Kansas two-year colleges to develop appropriate 2+2 programs. Before a duplicate program is approved, we recommend that K-State work toward partnering with two-year colleges like CCC and WSU-Tech and be required to bring forward articulable reasons why such partnership(s) are not viable in lieu of standing up a new program.

Such collaboration would support the KBOR policy that the roles of the state universities and the State's community colleges and technical colleges are clearly differentiated, which preserves the two-year colleges mission of associate degrees, while strengthening partnerships and collaboration with the state universities essential to higher education attainment.

Thank you for your consideration of the Kansas Technical Colleges position of opposition to this proposed program by Kansas State University.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Genandt", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

James D. Genandt, President/CEO
Manhattan Area Technical College
President, Kansas Technical Colleges

Cc: Kansas Technical College Presidents
Blake Flanders – President – Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer – KBOR Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers – KBOR Vice President Workforce Development
Ray Frederick – Chair, Kansas Technical Education Authority

August 30, 2021

Samantha Christy-Dangermond
Director, Academic Affairs
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Re: Kansas State University August 18, 2021 Proposal
Unmanned Aircraft System program

Dear Director Christy-Dangermond,

As a new president with the Kansas Technical Colleges, I stand firm with the stance of The Kansas Technical Colleges in opposing the request from Kansas State University for the AAS degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Upon a review and understanding of existing KBOR policy guiding new programs, this proposal appears to lack evidence the institution has completed its due diligence in proposing the program.

In reviewing KBOR policy, I would ask KBOR to reflect on these perspectives:

- *The proposal shall discuss and compare similar programs in other institutions in the Regents system and related programs in the same institution.* While the proposal reflects on the alignment of the requested program to its existing parent program, a bachelor's degree, it does not discuss and compare similar programs in other institutions in the Regents system.
- *The proposal shall discuss and compare similar programs in the region and compare their quality with the program under consideration.* The program being proposed duplicates current programs being offered by other colleges, yet those programs have no mention or acknowledgement within the proposal that was presented. Both Cloud County Community College and WSU-Tech offer programs in UAS. In an era of tightened budgets, we are all encouraged to pursue, support, and navigate partnerships and collaborations between 2-year colleges and the university system. This proposal lacks evidence of such conversations.

Other evidence acknowledging KBOR policy requirements for new programs has been submitted through a statement as submitted by the Kansas Technical Colleges representative. In support of that statement and to encourage collaboration and conversation, I support the KTC request that K-State

collaborate with Kansas two-year colleges with existing UAS technical programs and UAS AAS degrees to develop appropriate 2+2 programs. Alternatively, it is incumbent on K-State to provide rationale why such partnerships and collaborations are not feasible or reasonable.

To their credit, the K-State proposal offers support of a public-school district partnership and indicates such conversations have transpired with that stakeholder. However, I find it disheartening that the proposal delivers such a glaring omission of engaging the local technical college in the discussion. Such collaboration would support the KBOR policy that the roles of the universities and community colleges and technical colleges are clearly differentiated, which preserves the two-year mission of associate degrees while strengthening partnerships and collaboration essential to higher education attainment.

In my role as a new president of one of the Kansas Technical Colleges, I am reviewing the processes and operations that distinguish KBOR and the TEA. I am observing the contribution of TEA to this technical program process. For instance, the purpose of the TEA is to make “recommendations to the Regents regarding the coordination, statewide planning and improvements/enhancements to the postsecondary technical education system.” The Vision, Mission, and Strategic Priorities of the TEA suggest the TEA serves in the capacity to “review and recommend approval of new and existing technical programs.” As I look to review the programs with FHTC and research opportunities for programs to support the economic development of the FHTC service area, these actions shall set precedent and expectations for those of us new to the Kansas state higher education system.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice process inquiry and program opposition during the public comment period. I look forward to learning the outcome of this decision by KBOR.

With respect,



Caron Daugherty





MANHATTAN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Samantha Christy-Dangermond
Director, Academic Affairs
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Re: Kansas State University-proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program

Dear Director Christy-Dangermond,

Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC) opposes the request from Kansas State University for the AAS degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). The proposal from the university duplicates current programs provided by other colleges. This appears to contradict current Kansas Board of Regents policy. In considering new programs KBOR policy states "The minimization of unnecessary program duplication is a high priority of the Kansas Board of Regents". Both Cloud County Community College (CCCC) and WSU-Tech offer programs in UAS.

Per KBOR policy, proposals for new programs "shall determine if each proposed program is similar to others in the state and may serve the same potential student population" and if determined "that one or more similar programs exist" the program proposal narrative shall take into account "the ability/inability to offer the program collaboratively." This standard was not addressed or met by the university in its proposal. KBOR policy also further states that "...the Board of Regents discourages the state universities from offering associate degrees in academic or technical programs where the baccalaureate is available...". In this proposal Kansas State University details the fact that it already offers a baccalaureate degree in this area. They provide no rational explanation for needing to provide the AAS degree, in direct conflict with the missions of the two-year colleges in the state. The university request appears again to violate existing KBOR policy.

We strongly recommend that the university work with two-year colleges to develop pathways to support students and their academic pursuits. More 2+2 programs are certainly needed and would benefit the two-year colleges, the university, and most importantly, the State! Such collaboration would also protect the missions of the respective institutions, and in the case of the two-year colleges, their local board and stakeholders.

Sincerely,

James D. Genandt, President/CEO
Manhattan Area Technical College



August 24, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St., #520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Blake:

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech) opposes the Associate of Applied Science degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) from Kansas State University Technology and Aviation (K-State Polytechnic).

The mission of WSU Tech and other two-year colleges in the realm of technical education is to provide workforce opportunities to support our students, community, and business and industry. The application indicates that the AAS program would "feed" into the BATN degree, this does not meet the intended purpose of an AAS. Creating workforce ready students is the intended purpose of AAS degrees and linking those to local industry. No linkage to local industry is provided and the only employment information provided quotes international figures.

There is no doubt that in UAS research, K-State Polytechnic is a great choice to consider for education. AAS degrees are meant to provide access to employment for local students. With that being stated, no courses or curriculum on fixed-wing aircraft is included. Fixed-wing aircraft make up a large amount of the industry especially in Kansas when a large portion of the UAS industry is in agriculture and land surveying. By not providing students with this knowledge, students will graduate without vital tools to help them succeed in the Kansas workforce and surrounding areas. Moreover, there is a strong indication that if colleges do not sign-up and utilize K-state's "licensed" curriculum, this would limit other two-year college students' opportunities to transfer to earn a BATN.

Finally, K-State Polytechnic touts a partnership with USD 305-Salina Public Schools. The essence of career and technical education and this work focusing on dual-credit partnerships is governed by the Technical Education Authority (TEA) and there has been an immense amount of work that has been done to create pathways and opportunities for students via the Excel in CTE program. By allowing universities options into this arena, it is unfair for institutions following TEA guidelines and the subsequent usage and application of state funds specific to two-year college education.

Allowing universities to offer AAS degrees is not at the heart of this argument, we feel the opportunities that could be provided for students to complete degrees is beneficial, but only if the mission of those degrees and the rules that need to be followed and remain consistent across all state institutions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sheree Utash'.

Dr. Sheree Utash
President



September 8, 2021

James D. Genandt, President, Manhattan Technical College
Council Members of Kansas Technical Colleges
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

RE: Response to Manhattan Technical College concerns and Council of Kansas Technical College concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program.

Dear President Genandt and Members of the Council of Kansas Technical Colleges,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of opposition contained in your August 19 note, including claims of program duplication, the need to identify similar programs, and lack of collaboration.

1. The proposal represents program duplication. Cloud & WSU Tech have been approved to offer UAS programs. Per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.d.i.(a): *When the Board considers the establishment of a new degree program or major, information regarding its need, quality, cost and means of assessment become paramount. The minimization of unnecessary program duplication is a high priority of the Kansas Board of Regents.*

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC or WSU Tech and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development and maintenance.

2. The proposal did not identify similar programs as required by KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(iii)): *The proposal shall discuss and compare similar programs in the region and compare their quality with the program under consideration.*

The focus of our program is on developing professional aviators. As such, our AAS creates a well-rounded UAS professional pilot capable of using their degree to apply to many use cases involving UAS. With foundation courses in UAS flight operations, maintenance, design and construction, and processing remotely sensed data, they will have a strong foundation on all aspects of UAS operations. Additionally, we leverage some of our other aviation courses to help develop aviation professionals, not just drone operators, such as Introduction to Aviation and Human Factors in Aviation.

Cloud County Community College (CCCC) offers an AAS in small UAS and does require FAA certification. Their degree offering is focused on developing graduates with a master of using UAS for wind turbine inspections. It is a solid program for UAS applications in renewable and wind energy. The KSU UAS program is broader in scope.

WSU Tech also offers a strong program and will be a good source of industry talent once fully established. WSU Tech provides students various levels of flight training experience, but again, our graduates will be qualified for different career segments upon graduation. Again, based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. Ours is the only program that emphasizes flight instructor development and maintenance.

While Northwest Technical College does not have a formal degree program in UAS, they do have a recognized skillset in UAS applications in precision agriculture. Our program does not specifically address this industry segment, which is a beneficial specialized application to the Kansas workforce.

The variation in UAS degrees is a good thing for this growing industry in Kansas. No one educational provider will be able to offer a comprehensive program in this area. Having institutions that support industry application needs in wind technology, precision agriculture, general UAS safety, and professional aviation talent development strengthens Kansas higher education's ability to support the workforce development needs within the state.

3. The proposal includes no mention of ability/inability of the institution to offer the program collaboratively as required by KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(v): *The proposal shall consider and demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the program being a freestanding, cooperative or joint program including collaborative degree options.*

Multiple conversations have occurred with various institutions about the possibility of developing joint programs in this area. While formal collaborations have not surfaced from these conversations, it is KSU's sincere hope that as an educational community we can work together to leverage the strengths of the individual institutions and create a network that enhances Kansas' assets in UAS rather than diverting resources. Our UAS expertise is not in applications related to wind energy or precision agriculture. But by blending the application strengths that Cloud Community College, WSU Tech, NW Tech, and KSU bring, we could support educational and industry workforce needs across the state.

4. State universities are discouraged from offering associate degrees per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.i.):

Associate Degree Programs: The roles of the state universities and the State's community colleges and technical colleges should be clearly differentiated. Therefore, the Board of Regents discourages the state universities from offering associate degrees in academic or technical programs where the baccalaureate is available; provided, however, that the Board acknowledges that student demand and community needs may engender requests for associate degree programs, particularly in areas of technology education.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and

degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college with no clear delineation in either segment. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our niche industry focus.

We appreciate the Board's acknowledgement that "*student demand and community needs may engender requests for associate degree programs.*" This need is a key element in this proposal. KSU Salina's work with local school districts to offer a pathway for secondary students to earn associate degrees while in high school addresses many of the goals for families and businesses as outlined in KBOR's *Build the Future* strategic plan.

Again, we thank you for communicating the concerns of the Kansas Technical Colleges to Kansas State University. We expect this response addresses the issues raised and we look forward to our continued collaborations to make Kansas an aviation education center.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Kansas Technical College Presidents
Blake Flanders, President, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents
Ray Frederick, Chair, Kansas Technical Education Authority

September 10, 2021

Dr. Caron L. Daugherty
President, Flint Hills Technical College
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

RE: Response to concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program.

Dear President Daugherty,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of opposition contained in your note, including claims of program duplication, the need to identify similar programs, and lack of collaboration. Since you reference and support the recent letter from the Kansas Technical Colleges, I address additional points from that letter as well.

1. The proposal represents program duplication. Cloud & WSU Tech have been approved to offer UAS programs. Per KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.d.i.(a): *When the Board considers the establishment of a new degree program or major, information regarding its need, quality, cost and means of assessment become paramount. The minimization of unnecessary program duplication is a high priority of the Kansas Board of Regents.*

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC or WSU Tech and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development and maintenance.

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The focus of our program is on developing professional aviators. As such, our AAS creates a well-rounded UAS professional pilot capable of using their degree to apply to many use cases involving UAS. With foundation courses in UAS flight operations, maintenance, design and construction, and processing remotely sensed data, they will have a strong foundation on all aspects of UAS operations. Additionally, we leverage some of our other aviation courses to help develop aviation professionals, not just drone operators, such as Introduction to Aviation and Human Factors in Aviation.

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3. The proposal includes no mention of ability/inability of the institution to offer the program collaboratively as required by KBOR policy (Ch. II. A.7.e.iii.(1)(a)(v): *The proposal shall consider and demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the program being a freestanding, cooperative or joint program including collaborative degree options.*

Multiple conversations have occurred with various institutions about the possibility of developing joint programs in this area. While formal collaborations have not surfaced from these conversations, it is KSU's sincere hope that as an educational community we can work together to leverage the strengths of the individual institutions and create a network that enhances Kansas' assets in UAS rather than diverting resources. Our UAS expertise is not in applications related to wind energy or precision agriculture. But by blending the application strengths that Cloud Community College, WSU Tech, NW Tech, and KSU bring, we could support educational and industry workforce needs across the state.

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Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college with no

clear delineation in either segment. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our niche industry focus.

We appreciate the Board's acknowledgement that "*student demand and community needs may engender requests for associate degree programs.*" This need is a key element in this proposal. KSU Salina's work with local school districts to offer a pathway for secondary students to earn associate degrees while in high school addresses many of the goals for families and businesses as outlined in KBOR's *Build the Future* strategic plan.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns to Kansas State University. We expect this response addresses the issues raised and we look forward to our continued collaborations to make Kansas an aviation education center.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents

September 13, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders, President & CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Flanders:

I write to let you know I find it concerning that discussions regarding Kansas State University (KSU) offering a new associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems are still taking place at the Board of Regents level, since communication began this last spring that Kansas Community Colleges, such as Cloud Country Community College, already offer such a degree.

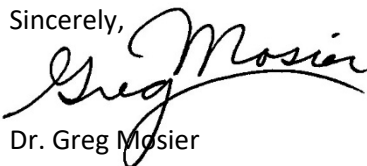
Should KSU be granted authority to offer this degree, it seems to go against the Board of Regents' desire to not allow unnecessary duplication and proliferation of the same degrees in similar regions and across the state. It also appears to go against providing high-quality educational programs to students at the best economical value for them and their families. I understand that high school students are a planned target audience for this proposed KSU degree. High school students taking this degree from Cloud Country Community College would be able to access Excel in CTE/SB 155 funds which would allow them to complete the program with little to no cost. Students taking the same program at KSU would not have access to these funds, would have to pay the much higher tuition and fee rates, and/or obtain other access to grant funds or even student loans.

Lastly, and what appears to be becoming more critical is the continued mission creep that is being demonstrated by Kansas State University. As a Regent University, KSU is charged with serving students seeking bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees, not associate degrees. Their continued requests to add associate degrees clearly crosses into the realm of the mission of Kansas' Community and Technical Colleges.

Should these requests continue to be approved, and the mission lines continued to be blurred, it only opens the door for what many states across the country have already approved; community colleges offering bachelor's degrees. Community colleges can offer the same high-quality degree at a significantly reduced cost than state four-year institutions, while being increasingly responsive to community needs.

While articulation agreements currently exist to get students from associate degrees to bachelor's degrees, albeit also in need of additional work, I contend this is a better route than what is currently proposed by Kansas State University. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Greg Mosier
President

cc: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Ray Daniels, KCKCC Board of Trustees, Chair





Area Chamber of Commerce

120 W. Ash, P.O. Box 586 • Salina, KS 67402-0586 • 785-827-9301 • fx 785-827-9758 • www.salinakansas.org

9/13/2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President and CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Dr. Flanders,

It is an exciting time in Salina overall and equally exciting around the aerospace and aviation industry. Salina has had numerous economic development related expansions and projects including an MRO and increased flight testing and new aerospace and aviation opportunities in the pipeline. The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce's support of KSU Salina's proposed associate's degree in unmanned aircraft systems.

KSU Salina was an early adopter in unmanned aerial systems going back to 2007, with that experience comes national prominence and recognition specific to both the quality of education and long term, trusted relationships with both public and private partners. KSU Salina received the nation's first Federal Aviation Administration that permits KSU Salina to fly unmanned aircraft beyond visual line of sight, or BVLOS, in all Class G airspace nationwide. This is just one example of the difference in the outcomes and quality of the research and UAS degree programs being offered in Salina: other UAS degree programs in Kansas are either in their infancy or very niche to a specific industry.

KSU Salina focuses on developing professional aviators in sectors like public safety, utilities, military, maintenance of aircraft systems and many more. As you are aware, there is a workforce shortage across numerous sectors but specifically in the realm of aviation and aerospace. As with any high demand, low supply workforce scenario, technology is being developed and looked at to create new efficiencies like utility partners using UAS to survey electrical lines. Additionally, many employers are lowering their education expectations and requirements including accepting lower degree levels and/or certifications to meet their workforce needs.

There has been significant investment from the University, City of Salina, the State of Kansas, private partners, and other entities to support KSU Salina both in physical assets and financial support. KSU Salina has experienced an 18% increase in their overall enrollment in the last year and much of that is in their aviation, both manned and unmanned, degree programs. KSU Salina, since 1967, has offered associate degrees and in order to meet industry, public, community, and state need in addition to student demand we support the approval of KSU Salina's proposed associate's degree in unmanned aircraft systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric L. Brown".

Eric L. Brown, IOM
President & CEO
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce



September 9, 2021

Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Support of Kansas State University Salina Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
Associate Degree program proposal

Dear Regents:

Textron Aviation is pleased to submit a letter on behalf of Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus (K-State Salina) in support of their efforts to further aviation workforce development in the state of Kansas; specifically, their proposal to offer an UAS Associate Degree program.

With nearly 10,000 aviation employees in the state of Kansas, our workforce needs are ever present. While Textron Aviation designs, builds, delivers, and supports manned aircraft, a UAS associate degree program could set in motion a pathway that ultimately leads to a career at Textron Aviation.

Kansas State's efforts are instrumental to advance the success and safety of the aviation industry. Just as Textron Aviation has previously supported Kansas State's initiatives to ensure high-quality UAS operators, aviation maintenance professionals, and pilots to meet the needs of a global aviation industry, Textron Aviation fully supports K-State Salina's current UAS Associate Degree proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Douglas R. Scott'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

Douglas Scott
Manager, Government Relations
dscott2@txtav.com
M +1.316.347.0116



September 13, 2021

Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

Founded in 2010, AgEagle is one of the nation's leading commercial drone technology, services, and solutions providers. With our headquarters in Wichita KS, our daily efforts are focused on delivering the metrics, tools, and strategies necessary to define and implement drone-enabled solutions that solve important problems and provide new perspective on achieving critical objectives. One of our three growth strategies is centered on establishing ourselves as the world's trusted source for turn-key drone solutions. To that end, we support Kansas State University's Aerospace and Technology Campus's proposal for an associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. K-State is a UAS leader in education, training, and workforce development. With their UAS Department's focus on developing aviation professionals, to include developing flight instructors at the associate's level, we look forward to hosting interns and hiring their graduates.

Sincerely,

Matt Martin
Vice President of Operations
AgEagle Aerial Systems, Inc

Cc: Charles Taber, Provost and Senior Vice President, Kansas State University
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Scott Smathers
Vice President for Workforce Development
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson St. Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Dear Mr. Smathers:

I am writing in opposition to the request by Kansas State University – Polytechnic to offer an Associate’s Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. My first objection is the fact that Cloud County Community College has an existing program. My understanding is that Cloud County has expressed their willingness to partner with KSU to develop a program that could transfer to KSU, and that offer has not been acted upon.

It seems that this program might be an attempt by KSU to access Excel in CTE funding, which to this point has only been available to community colleges and technical colleges. The funding is already being stretched to the point that proration is discussed annually. The addition of the Regent Universities to this funding source would rapidly deplete the pool of funds available.

It has been my experience that many of the career/technical educations programs offered in Kansas are hampered by low enrollment. One of the reasons for this is that too many colleges try to offer the same things, reducing the potential for enrollment and the viability of the programs.

For the above reasons, I am in opposition to the request. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



John Masterson
President

September 9, 2021

Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear President Flanders,

Evergy supports Kansas State University's Aerospace and Technology Campus' proposal for an associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Evergy established a strategic partnership with K-State when we established our own UAS program back in 2015. Our Senior UAS Coordinator is one of their alumni. While we see a clear place for employees with their Bachelor of Science degree, we also see a strong fit for entry level opportunities for graduates of their proposed AAS program. The quality of their undergraduate education programs is second-to-none; we know this will hold true for future alumni after earning the proposed AAS.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly, Sr UAS Coordinator, Evergy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Kelly", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Cc: Charles Taber, Provost and Senior Vice President, Kansas State University
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



Fort Scott Community College
2108 South Horton
Fort Scott, KS 66701

Samantha Christy-Dangermond
Director, Academic Affairs
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear KBOR Staff,

Please accept this letter as formal opposition from Fort Scott Community College regarding Kansas State University Aerospace and Technology (KSU Polytechnic) offering an Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The reason for the opposition is multifaceted and is outlined throughout this letter. FSCC believes that should this program be approved and offered by KSU Polytechnic, it sets an unwanted precedent for higher education in the state of Kansas.

KSU Polytechnic outlined three items in the vision for the degree. The first one is a two year option or additional exit point for students within the pipeline for the bachelor's degree. The KBOR Policy Manual (2021) addresses this type of proposal directly, "The roles of the state universities and the State's community colleges and technical colleges should be clearly differentiated. Therefore, the Board of Regents discourages the state universities from offering associate degrees in academic or technical programs where the baccalaureate is available" (p. 29).

The exception to this item is typically when industry demand necessitates it. However, with the location of this program, another community college (Cloud County Community College) and a technical college (WSU Tech) in the region already offer similar programs – including all of the general education which is directly transferable. The third item outlined in the vision of the proposed program involves 2+2 programs. FSCC believes KSU Polytechnic has the opportunity to collaborate and have serious alignment discussions with those institutions, who already have the expertise involved with teaching this specific program meant for entry into industry.

FSCC strongly believes in partnerships with the university sector in the state of Kansas. We believe the KBOR policy ensures offering the best opportunity for educating students and supporting the balance of institutions throughout the state. This helps the community colleges remain truly affordable and accessible to students throughout the state. FSCC believes the approval of this program is program duplication, lacks demonstrated industry need, lacks adequate student population at this time, lacks genuine effort at program alignment, and does not meet the mission focus in the KBOR policy for new associate's degrees. For those reasons, FSCC opposes this proposal.

Sincerely,

Adam Borth and Alysia Johnston
Fort Scott Community College

Cc: Scott Smathers, Vice President of Workforce Development



Administrative Resource Center

300 W. Ash Room 217
PO Box 5040 Salina, Kansas 67402-5040
FAX: (785) 309-5811
www.saline.org

September 10, 2021

Dr. Blake Flanders
President and CEO
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 520
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Dr. Flanders:

On behalf of Saline County and our Board of County Commissioners, I write today to express our support for the unmanned aerial systems Associate degree at Kansas State University-Salina. Saline County has a long and proud tradition of being home to a variety of educational institutions that serve the spectrum of post-secondary needs. KSU-Salina, in particular, has offered Associate degrees in this community since 1967.

We understand that the Board of Regents seeks to deploy post-secondary public education assets around the state with minimal duplication, and we certainly appreciate that focus. However, the Board has stated that "student demand and community needs may engender requests for Associate degree programs" from universities, and that is precisely the case with respect to KSU-Salina. Saline County has a track record of growing industry, particularly in the aviation sector. The focus of the proposed degree program at KSU-Salina will directly support our aviation businesses as well as UAS applications in public safety that are of particular importance to our local government. This focus is different than other existing Associate degree programs offered by two-year institutions around the state.

We are particularly proud of the fact that KSU-Salina has developed a strong reputation nationally and internationally in the UAS field. We would hope that the Board of Regents would seek to capitalize on world-class programs rather than limit the growth of your institutions and our communities by wedging ill-fitting programs into communities in pursuit of the goal of non-duplication.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to a successfully implemented Associate degree program in UAS at KSU-Salina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Smith-Hanes".

Phillip Smith-Hanes
Saline County Administrator

September 10, 2021

Dr. Carl Heilman, Ph.D.
President
Barton Community College
245 NE 30 RD
Great Bend, KS 67530

Dear Dr. Heilman and Vice Chair Reiser:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 2 note, including mission differentiation and program duplication.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Barton Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2020

Dr. Kimberly W. Krull, Ph.D.
President
Butler Community College
901 S. Haverhill Rd.
El Dorado, KS 67042

Dear Dr. Krull:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Our partnership with Butler Community College is appreciated. As agreed, we ran the program through two cohorts of students. Unfortunately, program interest came in much lower than either institution anticipated, well below the 15 students required to cover the expense of faculty travel. We learned some valuable lessons on joint programs of this nature and we value Butler's willingness to experiment and explore the possibilities.

When reviewing KSU's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than WSU-Tech and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

Kansas State University does not intend to request SB155/Excel in CTE funds. State statute prevents this from occurring.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Butler Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Amber Knoettgen
President
Cloud County Community College
2221 Campus Drive
Concordia, KS 66901

Dear President Knoettgen and Chairman Pounds:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 2 note.

We have appreciated the recent conversations our Salina campus has had with your institution. Scheduling is often an issue during the summer months but were grateful that despite the tight timeline on the day of your visit, you were able to tour campus and visit with our UAS faculty. This background proved useful when you hosted our staff, showcased your facilities, and discussed the need to update our existing transfer agreements.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than the offering from Cloud County Community College.

The focus of our program is on developing professional aviators. As such, our AAS creates a well-rounded UAS professional pilot capable of using their degree to apply to advanced use cases involving UAS. With foundation courses in UAS flight operations, maintenance, design and construction, and processing remotely sensed data, students will have a strong foundation on all aspects of small and large UAS operations. Additionally, we leverage some of our other aviation courses to help develop aviation professionals, not just drone operators, such as Introduction to Aviation and Human Factors in Aviation. The curricular differences required to prepare students for the demand of the aviation sector do not align with Cloud's program and it would be a disservice to both institutions and the industries we serve to try and make it fit.

We were very impressed with your knowledge and expertise in small UAS applications in renewable and wind energy. KSU is sincere in our desire to leverage the strengths of both institutions to expand opportunities for students at both institutions and bring industry prominence to central Kansas. The variation in UAS degrees is a good thing for this growing industry in Kansas. No one educational provider will be able to offer a comprehensive program in this area. Having institutions that support industry application needs in wind technology, precision agriculture, general UAS safety, and professional aviation talent development strengthens Kansas higher education's ability to support the workforce development needs within the state.

Kansas State University does not intend to request SB155/Excel in CTE funds. State statute prevents this from occurring.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Cloud County Community College. We were excited by the innovative activity at your institution and regardless of the decision on this proposal, we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Marlon Thornburg
President
Coffeyville Community College
400 West 11th Street
Coffeyville, KS 67337

Dear President Thornburg:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Coffeyville Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Seth Macon Carter
President
Colby Community College
1255 S. Range Ave
Colby, KS 67701

Dear President Carter:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Colby Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, Ph.D.
President
Cowley College
125 S. Second
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Dear Dr. Rittle:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 2 note, including mission differentiation and program duplication.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the Board of Regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Cowley College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Dr. Harold E. Nolte
President
Dodge City Community College
2501 N. 14th Ave
Dodge City, KS 67801

Dear Dr. Nolte:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your September 8 note, including program duplication and mission differentiation.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors. The program at Butler Community College does not appear to be active.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Dodge City Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Dr. Ryan J. Ruda, Ed.D.
President
Garden City Community College
801 Campus Dr.
Garden City, KS 67846

Dear Dr. Ruda:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Garden City Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Deborah Fox
President
Highland Community College
606 W. Main
Highland, KS 66035

Dear President Fox:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Highland Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Carter File
President
Hutchinson Community College
1800 N. Plum St
Hutchinson, KS 67501-5894

Dear President File:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Hutchinson Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Vincent Bowhay, Ed.D.
President
Independence Community College
1057 W. College Ave
Independence, KS 67301

Dear Dr. Bowhay:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors. The program at Butler Community College does not appear to be active.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Independence Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Dr. Andy Bowne, Ed.D.
President
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299

Dear Dr. Bowne:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Johnson County Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Dr. Mark Watkins, Ed.D.
President
Labette Community College
200 S. 14th Street
Parsons, KS 67357

Dear Dr. Watkins:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Labette Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Dr. Brian Inbody, Ed.D.
President
Neosho County Community College
800 West 14th Street
Chanute, KS 66720

Dear Dr. Inbody:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Neosho County Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents

September 10, 2021

Michael Calvert
President
Pratt Community College
348 NE SR 61
Pratt, KS 67124

Dear President Calvert:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about Kansas State University's (KSU) proposed Unmanned Aircraft System program. Below you will find the response to the points of concern contained in your note.

Since its inception in 1967, the core mission of the KSU Salina campus has been to support technical aviation education in the state of KS. This mission was carried over and detailed in state statutes outlining the merger agreement and continuous mission of the campus. As we indicated in the proposal KS 76-213 (a) and (b) grants that the board of regents oversees Kansas State University polytechnic campus technical education, which "means vocational or technical education and training or retraining." Stackable certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees in each of our degree areas have been offered on this campus since 1991. The campus has consistently offered associate degrees since the merger and currently has six associate degree options available to students. Due to our history and degree portfolio, the campus is a unique blend of a two-year technical and four-year college. This allows us to comprehensively serve the workforce needs of our industry focus.

When reviewing Kansas State University's proposal within the context of degree title, program duplication appears to exist. However, from a curricular and career preparatory standpoint, the program proposed by KSU is significantly different than Cloud CC and supports a separate market need. Based upon our industry advisory board feedback, a focus on human factors, safety, maintenance, and flight instructor development is an important market gap to address as UAS applications become more prominent. KSU's program has a unique emphasis on flight instructor development, public safety, and maintenance. This requires a different preparatory requirement than Cloud CC's focus on small UAS and application to support energy and wind technology. Market demand for UAS operators is significant and industry partners have indicated they need as many training providers as possible to fill the upcoming demand in a variety of market sectors.

Again, we thank you for communicating your concerns with the proposed program and providing us with an opportunity to respond. Kansas State University appreciates our partnership with Pratt Community College, and we look forward to future collaborations with the institution.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Taber
Provost and Executive Vice President
Kansas State University

Cc: Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents



SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1801 N. Kansas Ave., P.O. Box 1137, Liberal, KS 67905-1137 ☎ 620-624-1951 or 1-800-373-9951

September 10, 2021

Dear Ms. Christ-Dangermond:

This letter is in response to the application of Kansas State University – Polytechnical Institution to offer an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. While the need for programs like this exist in the state, we have a concern with allowing this proposal to pass. There is already an AAS program available at a nearby community college and this seems to violate the missions of the different higher education institutions in the state.

While each institution has the ability and responsibility to offer programs that meets the needs of their students and community, we also abide by the expectations of the state concerning the level and types of degrees offered. Community colleges and technical colleges offer certificates and associates degrees. Universities offer bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees. Blurring these lines results in duplication of services and resources in a time when there is already not enough to go around.

With the existence of an identical program nearby, a question arises, from where does the need for the duplicate program come? Since Kansas State University Polytechnic already offers a bachelor's degree it appears that a partnership of collaboration with the community college would be a better solution to the need. Institutions in the state of Kansas have a long history of working together for provide better opportunities than we could provide working alone. This appears to be another opportunity to continue that spirit of collaborative partnership.

We strongly urge the Kansas Board of Regents to decline Kansas State University's proposal to offer an Associate degree program in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Sander
Interim President
Seward County Community College

9 Sep 21

Blake Flanders
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612

From: Matt Dunlevy

Subject: Letter of Support

President Flanders,

This letter is written in support of Kansas State University's Aerospace and Technology Campus' proposal for an associate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. SkySkopes is a member of the UAS program's advisory committee and employs program graduates. We participated in discussions examining the program creation and market employment needs. As an employer who relies on employees having the combination of the unique skillsets that the KSU program provides, we ascertain that the addition of an associate degree to the institution's degree options would not only provide an additional credential making graduates more competitive, but also provide a pipeline to entry-level skilled UAS aviation professionals that is not readily available in the aviation industry today.

Please feel free to reach out to me at matt@skyskopes.com with any questions.

Very respectfully,



Matt Dunlevy
Founder

Cc: Charles Taber, Provost and Senior Vice President, Kansas State University
Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
Scott Smathers, Vice President for Workforce Development
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents