

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

MINUTES

August 17-19, 2010

The August 17, 2010, Kansas Board of Regents Retreat was called to order by Chairman Gary Sherrer at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Johnson County Community College in the Regnier Center, 12345 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Sherrer, Chairman
Ed McKechnie, Vice Chairman
Jerry Boettcher
Christine Downey-Schmidt
Mildred Edwards
Tim Emert
Dick Hedges
Dan Lykins
Janie Perkins

FORESIGHT 2020

President Tompkins reviewed the five strategic goals and objectives for higher education in Kansas known as Foresight 2020. The five strategic goals include: 1) Achieve alignment between the state's preK-12 and higher education systems and continue to enhance alignment between higher education institutions; 2) Achieve participation in the state's higher education system that better reflects the state's demography and more fully engages adult learners; 3) Achieve measurable improvements in persistence and completion rates for higher education institutions across the state; 4) Ensure that students earning credentials and degrees across the higher education system possess the foundational skills essential for success in work and in life; and 5) Enhance alignment between the work of the state's higher education system and the needs of the Kansas economy. The Regents made minor language and format adjustments to the five goals. Regent McKechnie introduced a sixth goal to enhance national rankings, expand research, and improve collaboration. Board staff was asked to update the five goals and develop language for a sixth goal. The updated Foresight 2020 document will be presented to the Board for consideration at the September, 2010 Board meeting.

BREAK

Chairman Sherrer called for a short break at 2:42 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE

The Regents discussed potential legislative initiatives for the upcoming year. These initiatives include the following systemwide strategic investments: 1) a systemwide inflationary funding request based on a 3-year rolling average of the Higher Education Price Index; 2) a request for year 4 funding of deferred maintenance; 3) a new need-based financial aid program for state university students; and 4) a systemwide workforce & economic development initiative. The Regents plan to formally consider these initiatives at the September, 2010 Board meeting.

BOARD GOALS FOR FY 2011

The Board discussed goals and items they would like to achieve or further explore during the upcoming year. Some of the items discussed include updating the format of the Board agenda, exploring options of a Board self-assessment process, and improving communication with the community and technical colleges. Following discussion, the Regents reached consensus that individual Board members should visit each of the community and technical college campuses by the end of December 2010. Additionally, the Regents decided to visit each of the university CEOs this year. Chairman Sherrer and President Tompkins will assign each Regent to one or more campuses.

BEING AN EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBER

David Adkins, Executive Director of The Council of State Government, gave a presentation on how to be an effective board member. Mr. Adkins spoke about establishing priorities and strategies.

AMEND AGENDA

Chairman Sherrer announced that the Wednesday's agenda would be amended to add an executive session regarding personnel matters of non-elected personnel as the second item.

RECESS

Chairman Sherrer recessed the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

RECONVENE

Chairman Sherrer reconvened the meeting at 8:20 a.m. on Wednesday, August 18.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Sherrer, Chairman
Ed McKechnie, Vice Chairman
Jerry Boettcher
Christine Downey-Schmidt
Mildred Edwards
Tim Emert
Dick Hedges
Dan Lykins
Janie Perkins

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

General Counsel Julene Miller reviewed the Board members' conflict of interest form. General Counsel Miller will finalize the form and send it to each of the Regents. The Regents are to fill out and return the form to the Board office before the September meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:25 a.m., Regent McKechnie moved, seconded by Regent Downey-Schmidt, that the Board of Regents recess into executive session for 35 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Participating in the executive session were members of the Board and President Tompkins. At 9:00 a.m., the meeting returned to open session.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Vice President Gary Alexander presented a draft Distance Education Plan. Last year the Board's Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) was charged to review and make recommendations regarding state university efforts to deliver university programs via distance education. The draft plan lays out the responsibilities of the Board and the universities. It also includes annual reporting on distance education programs. Following discussion, the Board emphasized the importance of distance learning and how critical it is to help achieve improved access to higher education for students. The Board wants staff to start gathering information on how many distance education programs already exist system wide in Kansas. Additionally, the Board wants an overview of what other states are doing.

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Dr. Robert Edleston, President, Manhattan Area Technical College and Clark Coco, President, North Central Kansas Technical College, made comments on behalf of the public technical colleges. President Edleston spoke about the growth in technical education and how the colleges are doing a better job of reaching more students. President Coco spoke about moving technical education forward and working with the Technical Education Authority and the Board of Regents to develop a strategic plan.

BREAK

The Chairman called for a short break at 11:00 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Representing the community colleges were President John Masterson, Allen County Community College; President Carl Heilman, Barton County Community College; President Jacqueline Vietti, Butler Community College; President Terry Calaway, Johnson County Community College; and President Duane Dunn, Seward County Community College. The presidents reviewed the community colleges' mission to increase access to higher education statewide. They noted that work is being done to increase on-line classes to reach more students and to help students transfer more easily. The presidents would like to work with the Board of Regents and the state universities to strengthen articulation agreements. Additionally, funding and the importance of communicating with the Legislature as a system were discussed.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

President Jerry Farley gave the Regents an overview of Washburn University. He spoke about the history, demographics, funding, and organizational structure of both Washburn University and Washburn Institute of Technology (WIT). President Farley stated that Washburn has adopted a new strategic plan and is working on improving both learner outcomes and workforce development. Additionally, President Farley reviewed successes of the law school, undergraduate programs, athletics, and WIT.

BREAK

Chairman Sherrer called for a short break at 12:35 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

President Schulz presented the steps Kansas State University will take in order to reach its goal to be recognized as one of the nation's top 50 public research universities by 2025. K-State will compare its current ranking against peer land-grant institutions, and to measure progress, K-State will use benchmarks commonly used to measure public research universities. These benchmarks include: 1) Research and Development; 2) Total Endowment; 3) Number of National Academy Members; 4) Number of Faculty Awards; 5) Number of Doctorates Awarded; 6) Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention Ratio; 7) Six-year Graduation Rate; and 8) Percent of Undergraduates Involved in a Formalized Research Experience.

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

President Hammond presented the goals Fort Hays State University wants to accomplish academically. The University hopes to successfully complete the Higher Learning Commission System Appraisal and the AACSB special accreditation for its School of Business. Additionally, Fort Hays State University is working on expanding its undergraduate research experience pilot program, and is continuing its designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence for its Information Networking and Telecommunications (INT) program. President Hammond stated that if Fort Hays State University accomplishes these goals, it will set the University apart from its peer institutions.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

The benchmarks to raise the national ranking for the University of Kansas were presented by Chancellor Gray-Little. KU is comparing itself to peer institutions in the following categories: 1) Federal Research Expenditures; 2) National Academies Membership; 3) Awards, Fellowships & Memberships; 4) Freshman Retention; 5) U.S. News: Academic Reputation; 6) U.S. News Best National Universities; and 7) Graduation Rate after 6 Years. Chancellor Gray-Little stated that specific targets for the benchmarks will be in place by the end of the year. She noted that KU is currently reviewing its curriculum for general education, implementing an early warning system for freshmen, and improving its recruiting efforts.

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

President Scott presented the goals for Pittsburg State University. He stated that PSU is measuring its success on enrollment, private giving, performance agreements, graduate placement and satisfaction, national recognitions, and student competitions and championships. The Kansas Technology Center and the Kansas Polymer Research Center set PSU apart from its peer institutions.

BREAK

The Chairman called for a short break at 3:25 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

President Beggs reviewed Wichita State University's mission statement and its accountability planning matrix. The matrix includes constituent groups, values, and plans for WSU. President Beggs stated that the priorities of the university include focusing on recruitment and retention, supporting the Board of Regents strategic initiative, and working more intensively toward national level recognition.

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Emporia State University's presentation was given by President Lane. ESU is currently working on developing an integrated marketing plan to reach more students. Its goals include improving enrollment and recruitment, increasing retention by developing an early warning system, and improving graduation rates. President Lane stated that specific benchmarks for these goals will be put in place.

Regent Sherrer stated that it was important for each university to set specific benchmarks that can be measured for improvement.

ATHLETIC CORPORATIONS

Regent Sherrer asked the university CEOs about the structure of their athletic corporation boards and if there is a way to improve CEO oversight. President Schulz stated that K-State restructured its board and that it is made up of internal people who report to him. He believes transparency is the best way to improve oversight. Chancellor Gray-Little is currently reviewing the structure of KU's board. The Chancellor stated that currently the board's composition includes university stakeholders. She also noted that the athletic director is no longer chairing KU's board.

RECESS

Chairman Sherrer recessed the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

RECONVENE

Chairman Sherrer reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 19.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Sherrer, Chairman
Ed McKechnie, Vice Chairman
Jerry Boettcher
Christine Downey-Schmidt
Mildred Edwards
Tim Emert
Dick Hedges
Dan Lykins
Janie Perkins

KANSAS BIOSCIENCE AUTHORITY

Tom Thornton, President & CEO of the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA), spoke about the KBA and its relationship with the Board of Regents and the state universities. Mr. Thornton stated that the KBA is ranked #5 in the nation for biotechnology and Kansas is ranked #1 in the nation in growth of critical research funding. Mr. Thornton also highlighted some projects that the KBA and the state universities collaborate on including the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), the Collaborative Cancer Research Initiative, and the Eminent Scholar Program.

PRESIDENTIAL EVALUATION PROCESS

President Tompkins reviewed the Presidential Evaluation Form. Some of the recommendations to enhance the process include utilizing the multi-rater process, having the evaluation form centered on both the Board's goals and the president's proposed goals, and using an executive coach if needed. Following discussion, the Regents asked Board staff to make some adjustments to the form's language and format.

BREAK

The Chairman called for a short break at 10:10 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS GOALS

The Regents were given an opportunity to share individual goals for the year.

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Chairman Sherrer announced his appointments to the Board committees and the Board representatives and liaisons.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Andy Tompkins, President and CEO

Gary Sherrer, Chair