

**Kansas Board of Regents  
Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee**

**MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

The January 20, 2021 meeting of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Regent Kiblinger at 10:17 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.

**In Attendance:**

Members:	Regent Kiblinger, Chair Regent Brandau-Murguia	Regent Schmidt	Regent Van Etten
Staff:	Daniel Archer Amy Robinson Steve Funk	Karla Wiscombe Sam Christy-Dangermond Judd McCormack	Tara Lebar Marti Leisinger Scott Smathers
Others:	Adam Borth, Fort Scott CC Chuck Taber, K-State Cindy Hoss, Hutchinson CC Holly Storkel, KU Jason Sharp, Labette CC John Colombo, KU Kaye Monk-Morgan, WSU Lua Yuille, KU Mark Reynolds, KU Monette DePew, Pratt CC Robert Klein, KUMC Shirley Lefever, WSU	Aron Potter, Coffeyville CC Brian Niehoff, K-State Cole Shewmake, PSU Howard Smith, PSU Jill Arensdorf, FHSU Kim Morse, Washburn Linnea GlenMaye, ESU Mahbub Rashid, KU Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC Nick Stevens, KU Jean Redeker, KU Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	Alysia Johnston, Fort Scott CC Brad Bennett, Seward County CC David Cordle, ESU Jane Holwerda, Dodge City CC Joe Weir, KU Kim Zant, Cloud County CC Lori Winningham, Butler CC Mark Allen, Independence CC Mickey McCloud, JCCC Rick Ginsberg, KU Steve Loewen, FHTC Sarah Robb, Neosho County CC

Regent Kiblinger welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken for members and presenters.

**Approval of Minutes**

Regent Brandau-Murguia moved to approve the December 16, 2020 meeting minutes, and Regent Van Etten seconded the motion. With no corrections, the motion passed.

**Consent Items**

Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the KU request for approval to seek accreditation for a Bachelor of Science in Interior Architecture. Mahbub Rashid, Dean of the School of Architecture and Design, and Nisha Fernando, Director of Interior Architecture Program, were available for program-specific questions. Barbara stated the program is well-received and subscribed to, and KU is seeking accreditation from The Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). The accreditation meets internationally recognized standards through a peer-review process. There are fees associated, which include an annual accreditation fee. Being accredited helps graduate students by having a quality educational endorsement and provides professional standards annually reviewed to ensure the curriculum is relevant, current, and matches industry needs. It will also make this program more competitive and ensure students are recognized as well-versed and knowledgeable in their discipline.

Regent Van Etten asked how many students were in the program and whether other Kansas institutions offer a similar program. Dean Rashid responded they had 72 students in the first three years of the program, and they expect over 30 more this year. This will bring the total to over 100 students in the program over four years. It

was noted that K-State offers a program in Interior Architecture at a master level, while at KU, it will be at a bachelor level. Dean Rashid stated there was market demand to support both in the upcoming years.

Regent Van Etten moved to place the Bachelor of Science in Interior Architecture on the Board's consent agenda for today's meeting, and Regent Schmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion or questions, the motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote.

### **Annual Report on Exceptions to the Minimum Admission Standards at State Universities**

Sam Christy-Dangermond presented the Annual Report on Exceptions to the Minimum Admission Standards at State Universities. State statute requires the Board to annually submit to the Legislature information on the following categories of student admissions: (1) the number and percentage of freshman class admissions permitted as exceptions to the minimum admissions standards and (2) the number and percentage of transfer student admissions permitted as exceptions to the minimum admissions standards. This report is presented to BAASC before sending it to the Legislature. Sam discussed background information, admission criterion, and student exceptions data as provided in the issue paper. Sam noted admitting an applicant as an exception is at the discretion of each university as long as they don't exceed the associated 10% window. No state university exceeded the limit on the number of applicants admitted as exceptions to the minimum standards. The overall percentage of student exemptions has increased slightly from the previous year. Regent Van Etten asked if students who have been denied had applied at different institutions and if this data could be considered in the future. Sam responded they do not have this type of data on the student level. Regent Kiblinger noted some duplication might occur if students are counted in multiple universities as a denial, but as an exception at one. Regent members unanimously endorsed the report to move forward to the Legislature.

### **Low Enrollment Program Reviews**

Last spring, the Board discussed low enrollment programs as one of the 2020-2021 Board Goals. At that time, The Board concluded state universities would review all their undergraduate low enrollment programs under strategic program alignment. K-State and WSU presented on November 18, KU and FHSU will present today, and ESU and PSU will present on February 17. The process will include an initial review by BAASC and a second and final review by the Board.

- Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the KU report and provided a PowerPoint presentation, which will be emailed to all institutional representatives. Several faculty members were also available for program-specific questions. KU has listed fifteen programs below the minimum enrollment threshold. KU is recommending seven programs be merged: 1) Latin American & Caribbean Studies, 2) European Studies (co-major) 3) Classical Languages, 4) Classical Antiquity, 5) Slavic and Eurasian Languages & Literature (SELL), 6) German Studies, and 7) Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies (REES). KU is recommending two programs be discontinued: 1) Visual Art Education, and 2) Humanities. KU is recommending six programs be continued: 1) Dance, 2) American Studies, 3) Religious Studies, 4) African & African American Studies, 5) Astronomy, and 6) Physical Education Plus. KU provided detailed recommendations and rationale, budgetary overview and fiscal responsibilities, and relevant university activities they utilize in their Strategic Planning 2020.

Regent Van Etten asked if Astronomy feeds into other programs. Barbara responded it feeds into service courses and research opportunities. Dean John Colombo added that Astronomy is a sub-major within the Physics department and has shown considerable enrollment growth over the last few years. They have recruited excellent faculty who have brought with them external funding, and KU is developing a nationally and globally strong reputation in this area. Associate Dean Holly Storkel added that the data pulled for the report is a few years old, there has been additional growth more recently, and this program is on track for Board requirements. Regent Van Etten noted she would like programs that are being recommended to continue, be reviewed systemwide before the required 5-year review cycle. Barbara noted their programs are internally reviewed annually.

The Committee had further discussion about cost savings, personnel changes that come with mergers and discontinuing programs, and tuition and fee dollars generated by some of the programs under review.

Regent Kiblinger asked about the timeline for merging programs. Associate Dean Storkel responded the programs would need to have a structure created under their governance process, and they plan to start this process as soon as they obtain approval. They anticipate the new merged programs will be ready by the end of this semester, and they will have a period of time where the old program will finish out. She noted closing departments is more extensive due to the need to follow the discontinuation process, which will take at least most of the next academic year to move through those steps.

- Jill Arensdorf presented the FHSU report. FHSU has listed twelve programs below the minimum enrollment threshold. FHSU is recommending six programs for discontinuance: 1) Computer Engineering Technologies/Technicians, 2) Biological and Physical Sciences, 3) Geography, 4) Athletic Training/Trainer, 5) Administrative Assistant and Secretarial Science, and 6) Business/Corporate Communications. FHSU is recommending two programs be merged: 1) Art Teacher Education and 2) Art/Art Studies. FHSU is recommending two programs for additional review: 1) Foreign Languages and Literature and 2) Music. FHSU is recommending two programs be continued: 1) Physics and 2) Philosophy. FHSU provided the detailed reviews for each of the six programs they recommend for merging, additional review, and continuation.

Regent Schmidt asked if the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS) and Academy of Mathematics and Science (AMS) enrollment is down due to the pandemic. Jill responded that this is the reason, as they were not able to recruit and obtain students. Jill noted they anticipate growth in AMS and that KAMS has almost capped out in enrollment. Their long-term plan is to grow this program. Regent Schmidt asked how much support they provide to high schools in music and theatre. Jill responded they provide private instruction, use of facilities, summer camps, and community art and music, noting this is an important part that is not easily shown through data.

### **Other Matters and Updates**

Daniel Archer led a discussion on the review process for universities requesting to offer associate degrees. He noted there might be a policy gap that needs to be examined. Requests for a university to offer associate degrees are rare. During the standard approval process, there is no avenue for community colleges to provide input, and they are more likely to be impacted by associate programs. A written comment period for community college personnel is being suggested, which will be considered by BAASC. PSU is currently in the approval process for such a degree, and community college feedback has been obtained for this program. The PSU degree will be up for approval in BAASC at the next meeting. Daniel will provide community college feedback to BAASC prior to the meeting. Additionally, BAASC members unanimously agreed to have Daniel add a formalized process in the new academic program policy for including community college feedback when universities seek to offer associate degrees. Daniel stated he will put something together and present it at the February or March meeting.

Regent Schmidt provided an update from the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Working Group. He stated he is pleased that they are moving forward and plan to launch something at the CTE level. The College of Applied Studies and Counseling degree programs at WSU are taking the lead.

### **Adjournment**

The next BAASC meeting is February 2, 2021, at 11 a.m.

Regent Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting, and Regent Van Etten seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.