

## **KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**

### **MINUTES**

March 17-18, 2021

The March 17, 2021, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Bill Feuerborn at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Board Office located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Bill Feuerborn, Chair
- Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Vice Chair
- Shane Bangerter
- Ann Brandau-Murguia
- Mark Hutton
- Shelly Kiblinger
- Jon Rolph
- Allen Schmidt
- Helen Van Etten

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chair Feuerborn stated that due to the Shawnee County emergency order issued March 8 and its limitations on mass gatherings of more than 25 people, today's meeting is being conducted in a quasi-virtual format, with members of the Board, a few Board staff, and university and college CEOs attending in person. Other Board staff and all university staff are participating remotely, and the public is accessing the meeting via live broadcast on YouTube. The Board meeting is being conducted pursuant to the Attorney General's regulation for quasi-virtual meetings. He asked all participants to place their microphones on mute when they are not speaking to allow listeners and observers to hear the meeting unimpeded. Chair Feuerborn stated that participants should ask to be recognized if they have a question or comment and when recognized, the participant should state their name and title so he or she can be identified by the audience. Chair Feuerborn noted for each action item, a roll call vote would be taken to be clear how each Regent has voted. However, a roll call vote will not be taken for the approval of the minutes and no motion is needed to adjourn the meeting. It was also noted that there will be no opportunity for public comment during this meeting and there will be an executive session toward the end of the meeting. Chair Feuerborn explained the process to be used for the executive session.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regent Van Etten moved that the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Rolph, the motion carried.

### **GENERAL REPORTS**

### REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Feuerborn welcomed everyone and noted that the restrictions related to the pandemic have loosened, which has allowed the majority of the Board to meet in-person in Topeka. He hopes the virus count continues to decline so that future Board meetings can return to a normal format. Chair Feuerborn then announced that the President and CEO report will be presented by President Flanders later in the agenda because he is currently presenting testimony to a legislative committee.

### REPORT FROM SYSTEM COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

President Rittle presented the report for the System Council of Presidents. The Council received information on strategies to increase the College Going Rate, which has declined for recent years in Kansas. One initiative that is being implemented is increasing the number of students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The Board received information on the strategies tied to this initiative last month, which included the FAFSA recognition program and FAFSA completion events. President Rittle noted that the Council asked for the FAFSA completion data to be broken down by ethnicity and/or subpopulations so that they have a better understanding of the environment in Kansas. The Council then received a report from the System Council of Chief Academic Officers on Advanced Placement Exams and transfer and articulation. The last item the Council discussed was the initiative to close the equity gaps in the higher education system. The initiative is a part of the Board's strategic plan, *Building a Future*. The Council is interested in identifying best practices to reduce the equity gaps, and it was noted that President Flanders along with several other institutional leaders have reached out to Georgia State University's National Institute for Student Success for more information on how we might implement best practices learned at Georgia State University..

### INTRODUCTIONS

Chancellor Girod introduced the University of Kansas's new Chief Financial Officer, Jeff DeWitt, and Interim Athletic Director, Kurt Watson.

### REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders reported that the Board received a Grant Award Notification from the U.S. Department of Education under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund round two program in the amount of \$11.7 million. President Flanders is recommending these funds be spent on targeted initiatives tied to the Board's strategic plan - \$5 million to address equity gaps, \$4.5 million to address student well-being, \$2 million to address the College Going Rate, and \$30,000 to increase open educational resources (OER). However, President Flanders noted the Board office is still waiting on guidance to determine exactly how the funds can be spent. Additionally, President Flanders reported that in the FY 2021 budget, the Board was appropriated \$20,000 for the "Governor's Scholars Program." Last year, these funds were awarded to the four community colleges with the highest student success index. This year, the funds will be awarded to the four technical colleges with the highest student success index – Salina Area Technical College, Flint Hills Technical College, North Central Kansas Technical College, and Washburn Tech. Each college will receive \$5,000 to award five Governor's Scholarships to students with financial need who are enrolled at the colleges. He noted this award is a great opportunity to provide some students with financial assistance.

### REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

Interim President Muma presented the report for the Council of Presidents. The Council approved Emporia State University's Master of Arts in Applied Sociology, which is on the Board's consent agenda for final action. The Council then received reports from the Council of Chief Academic Officers, Council of Business Officers, Council of Student Affairs Officers, Council of Government Relations Officers, and the Council of Chief Diversity Officers. The Academic Officers reviewed new program proposals from Kansas State University and the University of Kansas and approved several program name changes. The Business Officers discussed the Board's deferred maintenance initiative, reviewed the policy that addresses enrollment of students who have an outstanding balance due from a prior semester, and noted that the cyber insurance premiums for the system will increase by 66 percent next year. The Government Relations Officers provided a legislative update and the Council received further information on House Bill 2188 – IT Project Management changes. It was noted that the Regents Information Technology Council is monitoring this bill. The Student Affairs Officers are hoping student housing will be at full capacity next year and noted that no campus is requiring proof of vaccination to live on campus. They also reported that crisis cases on the campuses have increased this year. The Diversity Officers reported that they have scheduled another roundtable training session with the community colleges on April 15.

### REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn reported that the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents is supportive of the new workgroup formed by the Governance Committee. This group will provide input on the processes associated with the Board's temporary, pandemic-related policy on workforce management. The Council hopes this workgroup sets a standard of how shared governance can be used on future topics. The Council also discussed the COVID-19 vaccine distribution processes on the campuses and returning to a more normal teaching format in the fall. Dr. Sternfeld-Dunn stated that technology in the classroom has changed because of the pandemic and noted that faculty are discussing how it can be used moving forward. The Council also discussed the decline in faculty morale.

### REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rija Khan presented the report for the Students' Advisory Committee. The Committee continues to focus on its goal to increase student counseling services on the campuses, and as noted earlier, a portion of the GEER 2 funds may be used to help address student well-being initiatives. The Committee is also working on an initiative to designate national election dates as a university holiday. The Committee believes that more students will be able to vote in person and participate in voting activities if there are no classes scheduled on election days. The Committee also discussed the COVID-19 vaccination process for students.

### REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

President Rittle presented the report for the community colleges. This month he highlighted Johnson County Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Labette Community College, Neosho County Community College, Pratt Community College and Seward County Community College. This spring, all of the colleges plan to conduct graduation ceremonies to celebrate student success. Most plan to offer in person ceremonies that will also be livestreamed. Some plan to hold multiple ceremonies so that people can spread out and others are

planning to limit the number of guests who can attend in person. Dr. Rittle stated that many of the employees at the colleges have received at least their first dose of the vaccine but noted that vaccines have been more accessible in rural communities. For the 2021 fall semester, the colleges are planning to return to normal campus operations with the understanding that operations may need to change, depending on local health orders.

#### REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

President Genandt reported that the four technical colleges that were awarded the Governor's Scholars program funds appreciate the opportunity to assist students with their financial needs. He then highlighted activities on the different campuses. Northwest Kansas Technical College received a \$1.2 million economic development grant that will be used to expand its Diesel Technology program. Manhattan Area Technical College recently started teaching its CMA and CNA courses at its Wamego site and increased its adult education enrollment by 24 percent. Salina Area Technical College went through its accreditation review and was informed earlier this year that the Higher Learning Commission was reaffirming its accreditation. President Genandt stated the House passed House Bill 2315 that would provide for a refundable tax credit for donors to the technical colleges. The technical colleges would then be required to deposit contributions to their capital outlay funds. The technical colleges asked that the Board advocate for this bill as it moves through the Senate.

#### REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY CEOS

President Mason reported that the Tiger Media Network was recently recognized by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters (KAB) for its work on the University's virtual commencement ceremony in December. The Network was awarded first place in KAB's public affairs category. She stated for the spring semester, Fort Hays plans to hold both in-person and virtual commencement ceremonies and noted all the ceremonies will be livestreamed. For the fall semester, the University is moving forward with plans to resume on-campus operations. President Mason stated the University will continue to monitor cases on campus and in the community and the administration will continue to work with its local health department. Based on the data, the University will begin modifying or rescinding policies and procedures related to COVID-19. President Mason announced that the University identified 94 courses that will use zero-cost Open Educational Resources (OER) course materials beginning in the fall, which will save students thousands of dollars. She also reported that in a typical year, Fort Hays State's two wind turbines produce more than 56 percent of the electricity used by the University, which results in about \$600,000 in savings.

Interim President Muma stated that Wichita State University is planning to resume on-campus operations in the fall but will continue to monitor the virus cases on campus and in the community. He noted that Sedgwick County recently updated its local health order to remove restrictions on mass gathering limitations; however, the order still requires face coverings and social distancing in public areas. This fall, Dr. Muma believes student activities like Homecoming, intramural sports, and fall break will resume. To ensure the safety of the campus community, the University plans to continue using the COVID-19-19 guidelines issued by the local health department and will continue to run COVID-19 tests at the WSU Molecular Diagnostics Lab. Dr. Muma noted that faculty and staff have begun receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and believes everyone who wants a vaccine will be able to get one before the start of the fall semester. Additionally, Dr.

Muma announced that former WSU President, Eugene Hughes, recently passed away. Dr. Hughes was WSU's 11<sup>th</sup> President and served from 1993 to 1998.

President Garrett reported that Emporia State University athletes are competing in spring sports and the hope is that fall sports will resume in a normal setting. However, student athlete testing protocols are set by the NCAA and/or conferences, and it is unknown at this time if any COVID-19 testing will be required in the fall. It is also unknown if the University will be able to allow fans to attend the events at full capacity. The University plans to continue to have COVID-19 testing available to students through the fall semester and will identify a few housing spaces that can be used to isolate students if needed. President Garrett stated that ESU's teaching formats will not need to change that much since the majority of ESU's classes were taught in person this year. Regarding COVID-19 vaccinations, over 50 percent of ESU's faculty and staff have received at least the first dose. President Garrett also announced that ESU's Debate Team will compete at the National Debate Tournament this month.

President Myers announced that Kansas State University has formed a Taskforce to design and implement a process to support university-wide academic program review and revitalization. Through this work, the University will establish a common framework and set of metrics that will provide an objective and transparent path to reveal programs for revitalization, investment and growth. President Myers stated the Dean of the College of Education, Debbie Mercer, and the Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, John Buckwalter, will co-chair the Taskforce. President Myers reported that All In for K-State is a 24-hour fundraising event that supports a specific University project or program. On March 24, 2021, this event will raise funds for the University's Textbooks 2.0 initiative, which is a grant program that provides funding to faculty and instructors so they can develop or adopt digital alternatives to print textbooks. Regarding the fall semester, KSU is expecting to resume normal operations on its campuses. President Myers then shared employment data on KSU's 2019-2020 bachelor's degree graduates. Regent Hutton stated that he is interested in the university-wide academic program review, and he would like to receive updates on the progress of this initiative. President Myers noted that the Taskforce will create the framework for the review and a smaller group, which will include the Provost, will make the decisions on program outcomes.

President Scott thanked President Flanders for his work with the Legislature. Regarding COVID-19-19, no new cases have been reported on the PSU campus over the last two weeks. The University has a designated vaccination site on campus for its employees, and so far, 443 employees have been vaccinated. In the coming weeks, student employees will be eligible to receive the vaccine. President Scott thanked the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas for its help with the COVID-19 vaccination process. He also noted that the University has an excellent partnership with the Crawford County Health Department, which has used the University's parking lots as drive through testing sites and Block22 as a vaccination site. Additionally, President Scott reported that PSU plans to fully reopen the campus in the fall and noted all employees will be brought back to the campus.

Chancellor Girod reported the positivity and hospitalization rates in Douglas County continue to decline. The University has conducted 620 COVID-19 tests over the last seven days and only ten came back positive. KU is assisting the county with its COVID-19 vaccination process and has

begun to offer vaccinations to its employees at the Watkins Health Center. Chancellor Girod believes that all faculty and staff members who want to be vaccinated will have that opportunity before the fall semester starts. He noted KU is planning to resume on-campus activities in the fall, but it is unknown at this time whether any COVID-19 restriction will be needed. This spring, KU will hold two in person commencement ceremonies on different weekends. The Class of 2021 will celebrate their graduation on May 16, and the Class of 2020 will be honored on May 23. Chancellor Girod noted the importance of inviting the Class of 2020 back since they were unable to have an in-person graduation ceremony last year. Chancellor Girod reported that the University of Kansas ranks fifth nationally among Tier 1 research institutions in the annual “Military Friendly Schools” survey. KU has been ranked a Military Friendly Top 10 school since 2018 and has earned “Gold” award status since 2017. Chancellor Girod also announced that the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University were named to Phi Theta Kappa’s 2021 Transfer Honor Roll, which recognizes excellence in the development of transfer pathways.

### BREAK

The Chair called for a ten-minute break at 3:13 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS**

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Kiblinger reported that the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee reviewed the Board’s Admission policy and discussed the University of Kansas’s request to change its qualified admission requirements. She noted that KU’s request will be reviewed by the Board later in the agenda. Board staff then provided an update on the Apply Kansas initiative, which is an annual statewide campaign in which high schools conduct events to help seniors apply to college. This year 108 schools registered to host an event, which is up 25 schools from last year.

### FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Rolph reported that the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee reviewed the fiscal items on today’s Board agenda and the Committee directed the Business Officers to bring back a recommendation for a long-term Board policy amendment to allow students to enroll with outstanding balances owed to the university. Wichita State University, Kansas State University, and the University of Kansas provided updates on their financial outlooks. They discussed expenditure trends, their Composite Financial Index data, revenues tied to student enrollment and their federal CARES Act funding.

### GOVERNANCE

Regent Feuerborn presented the Governance Committee report. At the request of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, the Committee created and charged a workgroup to make recommendations to the Committee and Board with regard to how faculty may provide input into development of any framework proposed by a state university to implement the Board’s temporary, pandemic-related workforce management policy. Any recommendations are to be brought to the Committee and the Board on April 14. The Committee also discussed a directive to the state universities that might accompany the Board’s Free Expression Statement, which is on today’s agenda for consideration. The directive will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

### RETIREMENT PLAN

Regent Bangerter reported that the Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) met yesterday. The investment consultant, Advanced Capital Group (ACG), recommended two investment fund lineup changes with TIAA for the Mandatory Plan, and the RPC agreed with that recommendation. Those changes will be brought to the Board at its next meeting. ACG also reported that the assets in the Mandatory Plan grew from \$4.11 billion on June 30, 2020, to \$4.68 billion on December 31, 2020. The Committee was notified that an error calculating the contribution limits for some participants on the Voluntary Plan has been corrected and no further action is required. The Committee was informed that its project consolidating recordkeepers for the Voluntary Retirement Plan was completed and contributions to the new contracts began in January. The new contracts with TIAA and Voya reduced pricing, so participants will maintain even more of their retirement savings. Finally, the Committee authorized Board staff to reach out to the State's Purchasing Office to issue a request for proposals for retirement plan legal services.

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Schmidt moved, with the second of Regent Van Etten, that the Consent Agenda be approved. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Bangerter, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried.

#### *Academic Affairs*

##### ACCREDITATION FOR MASTER OF ENGINEERING AND MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT – KU

The University of Kansas received authorization to seek accreditation with the Global Accreditation Center of Project Management Education Programs for its Master of Engineering and Master of Science in Project Management programs. The initial accreditation is estimated to cost \$16,000 and the annual renewal fee is \$2,500.

##### MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED SOCIOLOGY – ESU

Emporia State University received approval to offer a Master of Arts in Applied Sociology. This program will total 30 semester credit hours and will be taught online. The estimated cost of the program for the first three years is as follows: year one - \$133,982, year two - \$153,149, and year three - \$228,456. Student tuition and fees will finance the program.

#### *Fiscal Affairs & Audit*

##### AMENDMENT TO FY 2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR WEED PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING – PSU

Authorization was given to Pittsburg State University to amend its FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan to include the repairs and improvements in John Lance Arena at the Weede Physical Education Building. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,902,000, which will be fully funded by private gifts. The program plan for this project was also approved.

RAZE BUILDING – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to raze a storage shed located at 2209 Agronomy Field Road (building #36700-00555) and a farm equipment storage shed located at 2305 Agronomy Central Road (building #36700-00529). The buildings are on the Agronomy farm north of Kimball Avenue and tearing them down will allow the City of Manhattan to construct a new access road, which was recommended by a Traffic Improvement Study conducted by the City of Manhattan in 2014. The cost to raze the two buildings, the replacement value of the existing buildings and the new access road will be funded from the City's road improvement project.

Technical AuthorityREALIGNMENT OF WELDING PROGRAM

The revisions to the Welding Technology program alignment were approved.

(New Alignment Map filed with Official Minutes)

EXCEL IN CTE FEES FOR DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Excel in CTE Fees for Dodge City Community College's Home Health Aide program were approved.

(Fees filed with Official Minutes)

**CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**Academic AffairsLOW ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS – PSU AND ESU

Vice President Archer stated that Emporia State University and Pittsburg State University have completed their internal reviews of their low-enrollment programs. He introduced Provost Cordle and Provost Smith to present their respective university's recommendations. He also reminded the Board that under the strategic program alignment policy, the Board decides the final outcome of these programs.

Provost Cordle stated that Emporia State University reviewed 13 programs under this process. He noted that Music Education was discontinued as a separate program several years ago but is currently on the list because ESU is teaching out the remainder of the students who are enrolled in it. The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program has no costs associated with it because its courses are offered by the Biology and Chemistry programs. Provost Cordle stated the program does not attract a lot of students, but it's a great option for the ones who choose it, which is why ESU recommends continuing it. Physical Sciences is another program that does not cost the University anything to offer because all of its required courses are offered by other programs. ESU recommends continuing the program. Health Education is a second licensure option for Physical Education majors. It does have some instructional costs, but the courses generate enough tuition and fee revenue to cover all but \$200 of the cost. Provost Cordle stated that ESU recommends

merging Health Education with the Physical Education program, which should gain some efficiencies. Business Education is a teacher licensure program that does generate some revenue for the University. ESU recommends continuing the program. Provost Cordle then reviewed the following six programs: 1) Chemistry, 2) Economics, 3) Modern Languages, 4) Earth Science, 5) History, and 6) Political Science. Each of these programs have a small number of majors but they are productive programs that generate net revenue for the University because they teach a lot of general education courses. The University recommends continuing all six programs. Theatre is a big part of the cultural life of the campus and the community, but it is expensive to offer. Provost Cordle stated he has never been associated with a Theatre program anywhere that generated net revenue, but private donors do give to the program. ESU recommends continuing the program and will continue to review its costs and funding as a part of ESU's comprehensive budget reduction process. Physics does not attract many majors, but it is an important degree for society. Provost Cordle stated that the University wants to continue to review this program as part of its comprehensive budget reduction process. Provost Cordle stated that ESU's comprehensive budget reduction process is currently underway and that the University must achieve \$4,700,000 in permanent budget savings. Significant cuts will take place in academic programs, but most of those savings will come from programs that are not being reviewed under this process.

Provost Smith reported that since 2009, Pittsburg State University has discontinued 52 programs, certificates, minors, and emphases. Under the Board's program review process, PSU looked at 25 programs. Pittsburg State is recommending the following programs be discontinued: Graphic Design; French Language Teacher Education; Psychology Teacher Education; Spanish Language and Literature; Spanish Language Teacher Education; Biology Teacher Education; Chemistry Teacher Education, Physics Teacher Education; Family and Consumer Science/Home Economics Teacher Education; Mathematics Teacher Education; Teacher Education and Professional Development, Specific Subject Areas, Other; and Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology/Technologist. Provost Smith stated that many of these programs have already been discontinued or are currently in the process of elimination. He also noted that students enrolled in these programs will be allowed to finish their degrees. PSU recommends continuing the following academic support programs: General Economics, General Foreign Languages and Literatures, Geography, General Music Performance, General Physics, General Political Science and Government, and General Sociology. For General Mathematics and General History, PSU recommends discontinuing the Bachelor of Arts degrees and continuing the Bachelor of Science degrees. PSU recommends continuing its two interdisciplinary and coordinating programs - Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies and Polymer Chemistry. Provost Smith stated that PSU's Interior Design program was started in 2016 and has been growing in enrollment each year. Since this is a new program, PSU recommends continuing it. The International Business program allows students to develop and understand business tactics and strategies as they relate to a changing international marketing place. Provost Smith stated that the faculty are evaluating this program and therefore, PSU recommends monitoring it.

Regent Kiblinger moved to approve the recommendations from Emporia State University and Pittsburg State University. Regent Schmidt seconded. Regent Hutton stated that there seems to be a lot of programs that feed the core curriculum and wants to know if the universities need that many options to satisfy the credit hour requirements. President Flanders stated that the Board may want to discuss how to make the review process at the Board level more efficient and believes this

could be a Board retreat topic. He noted that Vice President Archer and the Provosts are the subject matter experts and need to be part of the discussion. Regent Hutton stated that under program costs, the universities are only listing the total salaries and benefits attached to the program and noted the full cost of a program would also include the facility operational expenses. He wanted to know if those costs could be calculated into the total cost of the program. Regent Harrison-Lee believes this would be a good retreat topic. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Harrison-Lee, Regent Bangerter, Regent Murguia, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried.

(Reports filed with Official Minutes)

#### AMENDMENTS TO NEW ACADEMIC UNITY AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS POLICY

Vice President Archer presented the proposed amendments to the New Academic Units and Academic Programs policy. The Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee determined it was necessary to amend the policy to ensure the colleges have an opportunity to provide comments when a university wants to offer an associate degree. Regent Van Etten moved to approve the policy amendments. Regent Kiblinger seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Harrison-Lee, Regent Bangerter, Regent Murguia, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried. The following amendments were adopted:

### **Chapter II**

#### **A. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

##### 7. NEW ACADEMIC UNITS AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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##### d. Approval of New Academic Program Proposals

##### i. Overview

(1) 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.

(2) State universities must submit a complete program proposal to ~~board~~ Board staff and enter the proposed program into the Program Inventory Database. Once ~~board~~ Board staff receives a complete program proposal and the program is entered into the Program Inventory Database, the proposal will be available electronically for institutions to view. All institutions shall be automatically notified of the proposed program by email through the Program Inventory Database. If a state university wishes to express concerns about a proposed associate, baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree, the president or chief academic officer shall address such concerns in writing to the Board staff within 45 calendar days of notification of the proposed

program. Institutions with concerns, comments or objections to the program must state those in writing to Board Staff within 45 calendar days of notification of the proposed program. If a community or technical college wishes to express concerns about a proposed associate degree, the president or chief academic officer shall address such concerns in writing to the Board staff within 45 calendar days of notification of the proposed program. During the 45 calendar day ~~calendar~~ comment period, the list of concerns, comments and objections will be compiled by Board staff and forwarded to the state university for follow-up. The state university proposing the program is expected to communicate with other institutions filing concerns, comments or objections to minimize or eliminate the identified issues. Final proposals must include evidence that concerns, comments or objections have been addressed. This process is designed to make the approval process more transparent, improve proposals and reduce potential conflict related to unnecessary duplication. The 45 calendar day ~~calendar~~ comment period shall run concurrently with the approval procedures for new academic program proposals.

The Board President and Chief Executive Officer, or designee, shall determine if each proposed program is similar to others in the state and may serve the same potential student population. A similar program is one that has a like CIP code, title, content or competencies. If the President and Chief Executive Officer, or designee, determines that one or more similar programs exist, the following information included in the program proposal narrative shall be taken into account: the ability/inability to offer the program collaboratively, the level of student interest in the program, existing and future labor market demand, and availability of clinical sites, if applicable.

Board staff shall compile, analyze and make recommendations to the Board on the information provided in the program proposal narrative. The recommendations and information provided shall be reviewed by the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee to determine whether the program represents unnecessary program duplication before forwarding the proposal to the full Board for action.

#### CHANGES TO ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS – KU

Jean Redeker, KU's Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, introduced the University of Kansas' proposed changes to its qualified admission requirements. Dr. Redeker stated that KU currently offers two guaranteed admission options for freshmen applications received by February 1st: 1) applicants with at least a score of 21 on the ACT and a minimum 3.25 cumulative high school GPA, or 2) applicants with at least a score of 24 on the ACT and a minimum 3.0 cumulative high school GPA. Both options require that a high school student achieve at least a 2.5 GPA on any college courses taken in high school. Dr. Redeker noted that last spring, the pandemic caused ACT/SAT testing sites to close and all in-person ACT/SAT testing appointments were cancelled. Because of KU's admission requirements, the University was only able to admit freshmen without test scores through an existing option outlined in current regulations. That option allows applicants with no test scores to be admitted through a special review but does not guarantee admission. Dr. Redeker stated that KU is proposing two options (listed below) that will accommodate applicants

without a test score while still preserving the test score option for those who do have an ACT or SAT score.

- Option One: preserves a pathway for students with a test score by guaranteeing admission for those with at least a 21 ACT score and a 2.0 cumulative high school GPA, or
- Option Two: guarantees admissions for applicants with at least a 3.25 cumulative high school GPA, regardless of test score or without a test score.

Both options require that a high school student achieve at least a 2.0 GPA on any college courses taken in high school. Dr. Redeker stated having a guaranteed test-flexible pathway competitively aligns KU with regional and national markets, which are placing less emphasis on test scores. Regent Bangerter asked whether the University's retention and graduation rates will be impacted by these changes. KU believes that a student with at least a 3.25 cumulative high school GPA is prepared and can be successful at the University. Regent Rolph moved to approve the changes, and Regent Harrison-Lee seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Harrison-Lee, Regent Bangerter, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried. It was noted that Board staff will begin the process to change the regulations and that it is anticipated that the changes will take effect beginning with applicants for the Spring of 2022.

### Fiscal Affairs and Audit

#### EXTEND SUSPENSION OF BOARD POLICY RELATED TO PAYMENT OF TUITION AND FEES

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, reported that at the April and December 2020 meetings, the Board suspended portions of the Board's Tuition and Fees policy so that students who are experiencing financial difficulties related to the COVID-19-19 pandemic could continue their studies. Vice President Frisbie stated that both the University of Kansas and Kansas State University enrolled students with outstanding balances during this timeframe but capped an individual student's outstanding amount at \$2,000. The universities are requesting that the Board continue to suspend that portion of the policy for the summer and fall semesters of 2021. Vice President Frisbie stated the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee asked the Council of Business Officers to review the policy and make recommendations on whether the policy should be amended permanently to allow students to enroll with outstanding balances owed to the university. Regent Rolph moved to temporarily suspend, for the summer and fall 2021 semesters, the portions of Board policy II.D.1.d.i. and II.D.1.d.ii. that currently state "No student shall be permitted to enroll for any semester if there are outstanding delinquencies from prior semesters, . . . [and International] students may receive tuition and fees extension privileges until not later than November 10 of the first semester or April 10 of the second semester, pursuant to written agreement with the institution." Regent Harrison-Lee seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Harrison-Lee, Regent Bangerter, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried.

### Governance

CHANGE OF ATHLETIC CONFERENCES POLICY

General Counsel Julene Miller presented the Athletic Conferences policy. The proposed policy directs the university CEO to obtain approval from the Board Chair and Board President and CEO before entering negotiations related to changing conferences. She noted the state university CEOs have reviewed and provided feedback on the proposed policy. Regent Rolph moved to adopt the policy, and Regent Harrison-Lee seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Harrison-Lee, Regent Bangerter, Regent Murguia, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried. The following policy was adopted:

**CHAPTER II: GOVERNANCE – STATE UNIVERSITIES**

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**F OTHER**

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**9 ATHLETIC CONFERENCES**

Any change by a state university in its athletic conference membership shall require expedited Board Chairman and Board President and CEO approval before entering negotiations relative to such change. The state university chief executive officer shall make a recommendation to the Board Chairman and Board President and CEO upon full consideration of all relevant factors, including student competition in intercollegiate sports appropriate to the institution, fiscal resources available, and sound standards of student academic performance.

FREE EXPRESSION STATEMENT AND POLICY AMENDMENTS

General Counsel Julene Miller reported that one of the Board's goals this year was to develop guidance on free speech and civil debate at state universities. The Governance Committee began its work by reviewing statements, principles and policies from around the nation including the State University System of Florida Statement on Free Expression, the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression, Kansas State University's Freedom of Expression Statement, and the Arizona Board of Regents policies. General Counsel Miller noted the Board's Statement is based on the concepts and language from these other statements, but it was tailored to fit the Kansas state university system. General Counsel Miller then reviewed the draft Statement, which focuses on student speech in non-classroom settings. She noted that at the Governance Committee meeting, Regent Schmidt requested that footnotes be added to the Statement to define specific terms and cite the legal precedent. Regent Schmidt stated he believes it is important to cite the legal definitions in the Board's Statement so that there is no confusion. He then moved to approve the Board's Free Expression Statement with the added footnotes. Regent Harrison-Lee seconded. Regent Hutton stated that he likes the Statement but wanted to know how the universities are going to use the Statement and if the Board's Statement supersedes any of the state university statements. He also asked whether it applies to the colleges. General Counsel Miller stated that the Governance Committee is developing a directive that will give details on what the next steps are for the state universities with regard to the Board's Statement. The Committee plans to place the directive on the April Board agenda for consideration. She stated that she believes Kansas State University is the only state university that has a Freedom of Expression Statement and its Statement is consistent with the Board's Statement. President Flanders stated that a plan needs to

be developed on how the Board's Statement will be communicated with the campus communities. President Myers stated that he has no issues with the Board's Statement but noted that Kansas State University spent a lot of time developing its Statement and that he would not want to replace it with the Board's Statement. He did concur that the two statements do complement each other. Additionally, General Counsel Miller noted that the Statement is written for the state universities but if a college or Washburn wants to adopt a freedom of expression statement, its local board of would need to take such action. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Harrison-Lee, Regent Bangerter, Regent Murguia, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried.

General Counsel Miller stated accompanying the Board's Statement are proposed amendments to the Use of Campus Facilities and Interference with Conduct of Institution policies. These amendments provide more clarification and guidance to the universities. Regent Van Etten moved to approve the policy amendments, and Regent Kiblinger seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Harrison-Lee, Regent Bangerter, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried. The following amendments were adopted:

## **CHAPTER II: GOVERNANCE – STATE UNIVERSITIES**

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### **E. FACILITIES**

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#### **16. USE OF CAMPUS GROUNDS AND FACILITIES**

a. State university facilities and grounds shall not be made available for fund raising events for any candidate, party committee or political committee, or for filming or otherwise producing partisan political advertisements.

b. Except as prohibited in subsection a., state university facilities may be made available for the purpose of holding political meetings, or public forums, provided there is no interference with regularly scheduled functions, the person requesting the space can clearly demonstrate that there is not otherwise available a reasonably suitable facility in the community, students are permitted to hear the speakers without charge, and payment of the regular fees for use of the facilities is made in advance of such use. University policies regulating availability and use of campus facilities shall be content-neutral and limited to narrowly drawn time, place and manner restrictions that are consistent with established principles of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

c. The outdoor areas of each state university campus are public forums, open on the same terms to any member of the campus community subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions that are consistent with established principles of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Members of the campus community may engage in non-commercial expressive activity in any outdoor area of campus in accordance with published university policies establishing time, place and manner restrictions. University policies regulating availability and use of campus outdoor areas shall be content-neutral and limited to narrowly drawn time, place and manner restrictions that are consistent with established principles of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

d. Members of the campus community shall be permitted to engage in non-commercial chalking in the outdoor areas of campus, subject to the following restrictions. Universities may prohibit chalking in designated portions of the outdoor areas of campus provided members of the campus community are afforded ample alternative areas to engage in non-commercial chalking. University policies regulating chalking in outdoor areas of campus shall be content-neutral and limited to narrowly drawn time, place and manner restrictions that are consistent with established principles of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

e. The state universities shall not discourage students, faculty and staff from hearing diverse points of view from speakers and programs sponsored by the university or recognized student, faculty, and employee organizations. University policies or rules on the advance reservation of rooms, the posting of notices, the payment of rental charges when applicable, and such other rules as the university prescribes for the use of its facilities to avoid interference with the regular program of the institution shall be content-neutral and limited to narrowly drawn time, place and manner restrictions that are consistent with established principles of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

f. Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as prohibiting a state university from regulating or restricting expressive activity that is not protected by the First Amendment.

g. Other than the Governor, elected officials and candidates for elected office shall not be introduced or recognized on campus unless they are in attendance at a campus event in an official capacity and at the request of the university.

h. The distribution of handbills shall be prohibited in those areas devoted primarily to instruction and study [or at the immediate sites and times of enclosed public events].

i. State universities shall have the authority to develop additional policies and guidelines that are not in conflict with this policy and that are consistent with First Amendment precedent. Such policies and guidelines shall be reviewed by the Governance Committee and filed with the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Board.

j. For purposes of this policy, the terms ‘candidate,’ ‘party committee,’ and ‘political committee’ shall have the meanings specified in K.S.A. 25-4143, as amended. ‘Campus community’ means students, administrators, faculty and staff at the relevant state university and guests invited to the university by the university’s students, administrators, faculty, or staff. ‘Outdoor areas of campus’ means the generally accessible outside areas of campus where a majority of students, administrators, faculty, and staff at the university are commonly allowed without ticketed entrance.

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## **F. OTHER**

### **2. INTERFERENCE WITH CONDUCT OF INSTITUTION**

Actions by faculty, staff, students or visitors that unnecessarily or unreasonably obstruct or interfere with the teaching, research or learning functions or other normal and necessary activities of a state university, or that create an imminent threat of danger to persons or property, may constitute grounds for restitution, suspension, dismissal or termination, ~~for~~ or temporary or permanent exclusion from the campus or any part thereof.

Interference with the conduct of the institution shall include, but not be limited to, actions by faculty, staff, students or visitors that violate any statutory, administrative, or regulatory provision that could subject the university to any sanction under any federal or state law, regulation, or policy, or to any potential or actual loss of accreditation. Interference with the conduct of the institution shall not include any constitutionally protected expression, though such expression may be limited by reasonable, narrowly drawn and content neutral time, place or manner restrictions.

(Board's Freedom of Expression Statement filed with Official Minutes)

### Other Matters

#### HONORARY DEGREE – KU

Chancellor Girod presented a request to bestow an honorary degree on Dr. Barney Graham. Dr. Graham has contributed to science, particularly in the fields of immunology, virology and vaccinology. He currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health and the Chief of the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory. Regent Rolph moved to approve, and Regent Harrison-Lee seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Harrison-Lee, Regent Bangerter, Regent Murguia, Regent Hutton, Regent Kiblinger, Regent Rolph, Regent Schmidt, Regent Van Etten, and Regent Feuerborn. The motion carried. The honorary degree will be conferred by the University of Kansas at its May 16, 2021 Commencement.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Matt Casey, Director of Government Relations, reported that the Senate passed its budget earlier today, which included an additional \$25 million to the higher education system budget and the \$10.3 million for the Board's capital renewal initiative. The Senate also adopted language that would remove the square footage formula from the EBF proviso as requested by the Board. The House began its budgetary process and will be considering some of the same provisions that are in the Senate budget. Director Casey noted that all the university CEOs presented testimony to the House Appropriations Committee on how classes were offered during the pandemic, and how the federal funds have been utilized to help with the financial impact due to COVID-19-19. These presentations were made to address Representative Tarwater's amendment to the state universities' budget to refund students 50 percent of their tuition for all virtual days that they were not in person in the classroom and 100 percent of the tuition for the days where the academic calendar was cut short during the semester. Director Casey also provided an update on the progress of the Board's non-budgetary legislative items.

(Representative Tarwater's amendment filed with Official Minutes)

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:12 p.m., Regent Harrison-Lee moved, followed by the second of Regent Hutton, to recess into executive session for 45 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject of this executive session was to prepare for university CEO evaluations and the purpose was to protect the privacy of the individual Board employees involved. Participating in the executive session were members of the Board, President Flanders, and General Counsel Julene Miller. At 5:57 p.m., the meeting returned to open session.

**RECESS**

Chair Feuerborn adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

**RECONVENE**

The meeting resumed on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 9:45 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Feuerborn, Chair
Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Vice Chair
Shane Bangerter
Ann Brandau-Murguia
Mark Hutton
Shelly Kiblinger
Jon Rolph
Allen Schmidt
Helen Van Etten

**CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA***Fiscal Affairs and Audit***FACILITY RENEWAL INITIATIVE**

Regent Rolph stated that last month the Board approved two motions related to the deferred maintenance initiatives and decided to dedicate this meeting to discussing the details of the motions. He noted that the backlog of deferred maintenance on the state university campuses is a large and expensive issue that needs to be addressed. The Board is looking for solutions to solve these issues but also understands that every campus is different.

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, reported that historically the state has not committed sufficient resources for facility renewal. Currently, the state universities have \$1.2 billion in deferred maintenance backlog for Educational Building Fund (EBF)-eligible mission critical buildings. To address these issues, Director Bristow stated that the system will need to consider ways to ensure ongoing investment in facility renewal, develop a systemwide strategic policy framework, and look at ways to right-size and revitalize the state university campuses for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Last month the Board approved two motions related to the capital renewal initiative. The first motion was to set off the \$10.3 million in the Governor's FY 2022 budget exclusively for the repayment of debt incurred as part of a state university capital renewal initiative. Director Bristow stated that the Senate has approved including the \$10.3 million in its budget for capital renewal projects and the House is currently working its budget. Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, stated the Board has several options to consider if the funds are approved. To bond against the \$10.3 million, the 2021 Legislature will need to authorize the Board to issue debt for the university system. The Kansas Development Finance Authority (KDFA) would then include the Board's financing in their cycle with other state agencies. Under this scenario, the first bond payment would likely be due in FY 2023. For FY 2022, the Board could therefore consider using the \$10.3 million to raze buildings, pay for maintenance on current projects, or cover the

universities' \$5 million assessment for FY 2022 and 2023. The Board discussed the options, and Regent Hutton stated he believes the funds should be used for bond payments and if no payment is required in FY 2022, then the funds should be held for future payments. He also noted that he views this initiative as a partnership between the state and the universities, which is why he suggested withholding \$5 million from the universities' operating funds. The university CEOs expressed their concerns about having enough resources to fund their portion of the \$5 million. They noted that funding for this initiative would either need to come from their State General Fund (SGF) appropriation or student tuition revenue. President Garrett and Chancellor Girod also stated that this initiative currently only addresses EBF-eligible buildings, but the universities have other categories of buildings that also have deferred maintenance needing to be addressed, which includes historic buildings. Regent Hutton expressed willingness to consider updating statutes as needed to support the Board's capital renewal initiative, but also stated he thought that buildings used for auxiliary functions should be maintained by those streams of revenue. President Scott stated that private donations should be considered when looking at the university's contributions. Regent Hutton believes that private donations could count for the university's portion but believes the definition for what a deferred maintenance project is needs to be narrowly defined. President Mason stated that Fort Hays State University would be able to cover its portion of the \$5 million with cash and does not want to take on additional debt through bonding. Vice President Frisbie stated the Board will need to decide if it wants to ask the Legislature for bonding authority against the \$10.3 million, which will involve the Board office doing the bond issuance. The Board can also ask for flexibility on the timing for the issuance and potentially do more than one to spread out the bond proceeds over time. Another aspect for the Board to consider is how much of the bond proceeds the universities can handle during a specific timeframe. Regent Harrison-Lee asked how the Board office will handle the administration of the issuance. Vice President Frisbie stated that the Board office would probably need to hire someone to oversee the financing aspect of the capital renewal initiative but further review is needed before a decision is made. Regent Hutton stated that the administrative costs would be built into the initiative.

Director Bristow stated under the second motion there were six action items to review. The first item is to discuss the idea of contributing up to \$5 million in university operating funds for debt payment. Director Bristow reported that a formula will need to be established to determine each university's portion of the \$5 million. That formula could be based off the current EBF formula and could factor in the Facility Condition Index (FCI). He also stated that standards and requirements for facilities conditions will need to be maintained and updated to ensure fair and accurate calculations. Vice President Frisbie stated there will be accounting challenges associated with bonding the \$5 million from the universities and trying to figure out what portion of the proceeds would be apportioned to each campus. She also noted that there will be a cost associated with the issuance, but specified details on those costs will need to come from KDFR. Regent Harrison-Lee stated that she likes the idea of including the FCI in the formula. Chancellor Girod stated that assessing building conditions takes a lot of manpower on the campuses and noted that if the Board decides to include buildings that are currently not eligible for EBF, then there would need to be a study done to assess their conditions. The group discussed not wanting to penalize campuses that have historical buildings, and President Flanders recommended placing these buildings in a separate category because the universities are required to maintain them. Regent Schmidt concurred with that recommendation. Regent Kiblinger asked to receive a list of all the campus buildings that have been designated as historic.

Director Bristow stated that the second item to review is whether to commit 50 percent of the EBF annual proceeds for debt payment. Vice President Frisbie stated that if the Board decides to move forward with bonding the EBF, KDFFA will require it to be a separate leverage from the SGF bond, and suggests only leveraging 50 percent of it. She stated that the Crumbling Classroom bonding program leveraged 50 percent of the EBF, which created problems for the universities because they had less cash available to address maintenance issues during the out-years when the proceeds were spent. It was also noted that the Crumbling Classroom projects included more than just deferred maintenance projects. The Board discussed the use of the proceeds and how the universities would manage the projects. Regent Hutton stated more study may be needed to determine how to get the best value for these funds for deferred maintenance and then a comprehensive plan needs to be put together. Regent Rolph would like staff to create a predictive model based on the universities' five-year plans so the Board can understand what the system would look like if nothing changed with the EBF. He assumes the system is losing ground every year and thinks it would be helpful to compare the different scenarios. President Flanders stated that staff can also look at what happened between Crumbling Classrooms and now. Vice President Frisbie stated that a detailed analysis with KDFFA will need to be conducted to compare the various bonding scenarios.

Director Bristow stated that the third item to review is whether to establish a policy for a "Maintenance Assessment" fund. A couple of options for the Board to consider is to establish policy to create a central fund managed at the system level, which may require additional staff at the Board Office, or establish policy that requires each university to hold the Maintenance Assessment fund at the campus level. Regent Hutton stated that as long as there are controls in place and the universities are committed to following the policies, he is fine with either option. Director Bristow reviewed a hypothetical formula for creating the Maintenance Assessment fund, which would be used for the annual maintenance on the campuses. Chancellor Girod expressed concerns about funding the maintenance plans. Regent Hutton stated that it may be a good idea to compare the formula to what the universities are currently spending on maintenance. Chancellor Girod also stated that emergency maintenance issues occur on the campuses, which may not be included in any of the plans, and was concerned that the university would not have the funds needed to address these issues because all the funds are tied up in these plans. Regent Hutton stated one solution is to set-off a portion of this funding for emergency issues. Regent Murguia stated that some of the universities have EBF money that is already dedicated to specific projects and wanted to know how this process accounts for those funds. It was noted that EBF obligations would be factored into each university's formula.

### BREAK

Chair Feuerborn called for ten-minute break at 11:30 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Director Bristow stated that the fourth item to review is whether to establish a "Classroom Efficiency" policy. The Board could consider the following options: 1) establish a policy that requires universities to update their campus master plans to include detailed strategies for improving space utilization, 2) engage a single consultant to establish systemwide policy standards for best practices, performance metrics and target goals, or 3) establish policy standards defining minimum requirements for campus space management methodology and space utilization data

maintenance. Director Bristow reminded the Board that the space utilization study that was recently completed assessed only academic spaces and offices. Regent Hutton stated this is a critical component to right-sizing the campuses and will be crucial to reducing the level of deferred maintenance.

Director Bristow stated that the fifth item is to discuss whether to create a systemwide master plan for campus consolidation and demolition. Some options for the Board to consider include: 1) hire a consultant at the system level to support the universities as they update their campus master plans focusing on space utilization, campus consolidation and right-sizing strategies, or 2) make the universities responsible for analysis and development of their own plans within the guidelines established for the System. Regent Schmidt stated he is concerned about implementing strategies to reduce the size of the campuses when the Board recently approved its new strategic plan that focuses on increasing enrollments. Regent Hutton stated that by removing the inefficient, older buildings the universities would have the capacity to build more efficient facilities to meet their future enrollment needs. Director Bristow also noted the utilization of research space needs to be included in the review.

Director Bristow stated the final item to discuss is whether to establish a policy for a “Maintenance Reserve” fund. The Board could establish a policy requiring a standard, prescriptive, detailed plan to account for future annual maintenance costs for all new space and construction projects and determine how those will be funded. President Flanders stated that this proposal would put more structure around facilities projects by identifying the exact funds that will finance future maintenance of a new building. Director Bristow stated that a potential next step on this item would be to re-engage Accruent for assistance in developing a cost projection template that would contain calculations based on industry standards by building usage and construction type. The group discussed funding sources and noted the decline in state support. Regent Hutton stated that the lack of state funding is an issue, but maintenance of university buildings cannot be avoided. President Flanders stated the Legislature may be more willing to partner with the system to address maintenance issues if the Board has detailed plans in place that show how progress will be made. Regent Feuerborn stated that with no additional state funding, he is concerned about how the universities are going to meet all their funding obligations.

Vice President Frisbie stated that Board staff will work with KDFRA to gather more information on bonding options and will further refine the proposals that were presented today. Regent Rolph thanked the universities and Board staff for the information and noted the Board and universities will continue discussing this topic at the May Board meeting.

(PowerPoint filed with Official Minutes)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

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Blake Flanders, President and CEO

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Bill Feuerborn, Chair