

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

MINUTES

January 19-20, 2022

The January 19, 2022, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Cheryl Harrison-Lee at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held virtually and streamed 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: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Chair
Jon Rolph, Vice Chair
Bill Feuerborn
Mark Hutton
Carl Ice
Cynthia Lane
Allen Schmidt
Wint Winter

MEMBER ABSENT: Shelly Kiblinger

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chair Harrison-Lee announced that because the COVID numbers remain high in Shawnee county, the Board has chosen to continue giving remote options to participants and members of the public who wish to “attend” its meetings. This month, the Board is not meeting in person, although the Board office is still open for anyone who wishes to view the virtual-only meetings from that location. With Board members and several other people attending this meeting virtually, the meeting will be conducted in such a way as to allow everyone to hear without unnecessary interference and to allow the Board to get through the agenda as efficiently as possible. Chair Harrison-Lee reminded participants to mute their microphones and wait to be recognized before speaking. She also asked participants to state their names and titles before they begin to speak so that they can be readily identified by listeners as well as observers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Winter moved that the minutes of the December 1, 2021, special meeting, December 2, 2021, special meeting, and the December 15-16, 2021, regular meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Ice, the motion carried.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Harrison-Lee reported that earlier this month several Regents attended the Governor’s State of the State address and expressed her appreciation to the Governor for including the Board’s budgetary priorities for the system. Matt Casey, Director of Government Relations, will provide more details on the Governor’s budget recommendations later in the agenda. Chair Harrison-Lee stated that the Board’s leadership continues to meet with the State Board of Education leadership on items that impact both systems. At next month’s meeting, the Regents will host a joint meeting

with the State Board of Education to continue discussions on these items. Last month, the Board and CEOs participated in a communication and planning strategies work session led by the Kansas Leadership Center. The Chair believes it is important for the Board to continue its discussion on this topic but wants the discussion to take place when the Board and CEOs can meet in person. She plans to have this as a topic for the February meeting and noted that Vice Chair Rolph will be leading this effort. The KU Hospital Authority continues to work on its timeline and strategies centered around how it can partner with the higher education system on economic development opportunities, and the Chair will continue to provide updates on this initiative as it moves forward. Chair Harrison-Lee announced that this is President Myers' last Board meeting before his retirement. She thanked him for his service to Kansas State University and to the State of Kansas and presented Board Members' gift to him, which is a landscape print of a Kansas wheat field taken by a local artist.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders stated he is pleased that Governor Kelly included the Board's budget priorities in her recommendations. The next step in the system's advocacy efforts will focus on communicating to the Legislature about why these funds are so important to the Board's strategic plan and for the state's economic prosperity. With the start of the legislative session, President Flanders has been busy testifying at legislative committee meetings. Early this week he presented neutral testimony on the Promise Act Trailer bill during a Senate Education Committee meeting. President Flanders stated that later in the agenda the Board will consider whether it wants to support this bill. President Flanders reported that the SPARK Executive Council and the State Finance Council approved the Board's GEER 2 plan to administer \$11.7 million for programs that benefit students. A portion of these funds will be used for the system's engagement with Georgia State University's National Institute for Student Success, which will conduct an analysis on how the institutions can address enrollment gaps and increase opportunities for underserved populations. President Flanders stated that the Board of Regents is required by statute to submit a number of annual reports to the Legislature. He highlighted two new reports that will be submitted this year – the Promise Scholarship Act report and the Kansas Challenge Act report. President Flanders also reported that the Board's Student Health Care Task Force continues to meet and illustrated the importance of the Task Force's work with the example of a top tier university in the nation recently agreeing to a \$490 million settlement of abuse cases that had been filed against it.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Janet Stramel presented the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents report. The Council discussed the COVID-19 policy request, which is on the Board's agenda, that would grant a one-year tenure-clock extension for the faculty cohort who began their appointments during the Fall 2020 semester. The Council supports this request because the pandemic is still causing disruptions to scholarly work and teaching. The Council is beginning its review of the Advanced Placement (AP) cut scores for college credit and will report the results of its review at the May Board meeting. Dr. Stramel also stated that the Council is encouraged by the Governor's higher education budget recommendations.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mark Faber presented the Students' Advisory Committee report. The Committee has been busy planning for its student higher education day at the Statehouse, which will be scheduled for either

March 8 or March 9. The student's legislative committee will start talking to legislators about the Committee's priorities before the student's official higher education day at the Statehouse. The Committee plans to advocate for current bills that help higher education and the Governor's higher education budget recommendations. The students also want the Legislature to consider funding to support additional mental health services on the campuses. At next month's meeting, the Committee is planning to discuss its goal centered around student health insurance.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Rolph presented the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee report. The Committee heard from nine colleges that did not meet the threshold requirement to be eligible for 100 percent of potential performance funding dollars. Because the pandemic is still impacting the institutions and their ability to meet certain performance metrics, the Committee decided to approve these colleges' requests for 100 percent funding. As a result, all the state universities, community colleges, technical colleges, Washburn University and the Washburn Institute of Technology will be eligible for 100 percent of performance funding. Regent Rolph stated the performance funding review process was structured to allow the Board to address unforeseen circumstances like the ongoing impact of the pandemic. However, he asked that the Committee review the performance reports over the next year to make sure the metrics are aligned with the Board's strategic plan. Additionally, Regent Rolph noted that the Committee tabled the discussion on Kansas State University's request to offer an Applied Science Degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. K-State requested more time to continue its discussions with Cloud County Community College and Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology.

AMEND AGENDA

Regent Rolph asked Chair Harrison-Lee to amend the Board's agenda to remove item two under the Academic Affairs discussion agenda – Act on Request to Officer an Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aircraft Systems – KSU. Chair Harrison-Lee amended the agenda as requested.

Regent Schmidt stated that at the Committee meeting he voiced his concerns about workforce shortages in the healthcare field, and he would like to look to see if there is anything the Board or Legislature can do regarding clinical placements and increasing adjunct faculty who teach healthcare courses.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Hutton stated that the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee received the annual internal audit reports from five of the state universities. The auditors provided information on the standards they follow and reviewed their audit outcomes over the last year. Director Bristow then presented an overview of the maintenance assessment presentation that the Board will receive later in the Agenda. Regent Hutton thanked the university businesses officers and facilities staff for all their work on this initiative. The Committee was also reminded that the external management review process for Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, and Emporia State University will begin soon per the Board's policy. The reviews will be conducted by Allen Gibbs and Houlik. Such reviews are done to ensure conflicts of interest are avoided and that transactions

involving non-state funds under the CEO's direct line have adequate controls in place. Board staff also reported that the State of Kansas annual financial report was published late last month with no audit findings for the state universities or the Board Office.

GOVERNANCE

Regent Harrison-Lee reported that the Governance Committee reviewed proposed updates to the Board President and CEO assessment tool to incorporate more references to and components of *Building a Future*. The Committee approved forwarding the proposed changes to the Board for consideration at a future meeting. Board staff then provided an update on the feedback they received from the Regents and CEOs on the *Building a Future* data document that will accompany the CEO assessment tool. The Committee also received information on the system's legislative communication and advocacy plan and reviewed the types of data available for University and Board Office executive compensation comparisons.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Rolph moved, with the second of Regent Hutton, that the Consent Agenda be approved. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Rolph, Regent Feuerborn, Regent Hutton, Regent Ice, Regent Lane, Regent Schmidt, Regent Winter, and Regent Harrison-Lee. The motion carried.

Academic Affairs

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT – KU

The University of Kansas received authorization to offer a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Project Management (52.0211). The degrees will be taught online through the KU Edwards Campus. This program will total 120 semester credit hours. The estimated cost of the program for the first three years is as follows: year one - \$218,113, year two - \$219,119, and year three - \$314,555. Johnson County Education and Research Triangle funds and student tuition will finance the program.

MASTER'S IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE – KU

The University of Kansas received approval to offer a Master's in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. This program will total 31 semester credit hours. The estimated cost of the program for the first three years is as follows: year one - \$200,707.77, year two - \$200,707.77, and year three - \$200,707.77. Student tuition and fees will finance the program.

Fiscal Affairs and Audit

AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR A REFLECTION CENTER LOCATED IN THE ORR MAJOR BUILDING – KUMC

The University of Kansas Medical Center received authorization to amend its FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan to include the Reflection Center project. The Reflection Center will be located on the ground floor of Orr Major, which is currently vacant. The estimated project cost is \$1.65 million, which will be financed with endowment and private gifts. No additional or new maintenance costs are anticipated. The program statement for this project was also approved.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBALL FACILITY – FHSU

Fort Hays State University received approval to amend its FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan to include the construction of a football facility. The facility will be an addition to the existing Schmidt-Bickle Training Facility located at Lewis Field. The estimated cost of the project is \$6,520,000, which will be funded with private gifts. The program statement for the project was also approved.

RAZE BUILDING – KSU

Kansas State University received authorization to raze the Agricultural Research Center hay storage barn, building number 36700-00874, in Hays, Kansas. The building suffered extensive damage during a windstorm. The estimated cost to demolish the structure is \$15,000, which will be financed with departmental funds. The site will be restored to grass.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Academic Affairs

COVID-19 RESPONSE EXCEPTION TO THE BOARD’S TENURE CLOCK EXTENSION POLICY

Daniel Archer, Vice President of Academic Affairs, reported that the Board’s policy on the tenure-track clock states that “no more than two extensions of the tenure clock may be granted to a faculty member for any reason.” He noted that when the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, the Board approved a one-time exception to this policy because COVID-19 caused disruptions to scholarly work and teaching. This provided universities the flexibility to grant a one-year tenure-clock extension for the 2019-2020 academic year that did not count toward the two extensions that are allowed under policy. Vice President Archer stated that because the ongoing pandemic continues to disrupt scholarly work and teaching, the universities are requesting an additional exception to the policy that would authorize universities to grant a one-year tenure-clock extension for the faculty cohort who began their appointments during the Fall 2020 semester. Regent Rolph stated that the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee reviewed the request and concurred with the recommendation to grant the one-time exception option for this cohort. Regent Rolph moved to approve the request, and Regent Lane seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted

affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Rolph, Regent Feuerborn, Regent Hutton, Regent Ice, Regent Lane, Regent Schmidt, Regent Winter, and Regent Harrison-Lee. The motion carried.

Fiscal Affairs and Audit

IN-HOUSE EXPENDITURES TO BE CREDITED TOWARDS MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT (FIRST READ)

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, presented a proposed methodology for crediting the universities' in-house expenditures toward their annual maintenance assessment. Last June, the Board adopted a new facilities policy framework and a six-year escalator to fully fund the 2% maintenance assessment, which will start in FY 2023. Director Bristow stated the annual maintenance assessment will be required for all mission critical (academic and research) facilities and that the Educational Building Fund (EBF) allocations will not count towards the 2% maintenance assessment. Following the Board's approval, Board staff and university staff began working to develop processes, procedures, and guidelines to implement the Board's Capital Renewal Initiative. Part of the process was to develop a methodology for crediting a portion of in-house facilities expenditures towards the universities' annual maintenance assessment. Director Bristow stated that a substantial amount of university facilities in-house expenditures (whether it be salaries and materials or contracted services) contribute directly to the upkeep and maintenance of campus buildings and infrastructure and a percentage of those costs should count towards the maintenance assessment. Director Bristow reviewed the proposed percentages of each department and the rationale for including them in the methodology, which is outlined below.

Building Maintenance: 90%

General Department Description: Staff of qualified trade workers in multiple disciplines, including carpentry, painting, plumbing, electrical, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC), and keys/locks are responsible for a range of routine preventive maintenance and minor repairs, as well as, responding to unplanned/reactive maintenance arising from critical emergent circumstances.

Rationale: The building maintenance departments are dedicated to campus building and infrastructure maintenance and directly contribute to the intent of the maintenance assessment.

Campus Planning / Project Management: 75%

General Department Description: Staff of architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) professionals, responsible for planning, design, and construction project management services, campus space management and campus master planning.

Rationale: Campus planning staff are involved in all stages of capital improvements and maintenance projects on campus including professional planning, design, prioritization, management, and phasing/coordination of academic programmatic needs with deferred maintenance priorities. This department also maintains all space and facilities data sets critical to the maintenance assessment program.

Central Plant / Utilities / Energy Management: 25%

General Department Description: Staff of skilled trade workers, technicians, and operators responsible for physical utilities and campus infrastructure. (Note: this does not include costs for utility bills)

Rationale: Central plant staff are critical to daily operations but also contribute directly to the maintenance and upkeep of pumps, heat exchangers, and steam generation equipment, as well as university owned utility infrastructure.

Custodial / Building Services: 5%

General Department Description: Custodial and building services staff provide routine and periodic cleaning services to the campus community to promote healthy, safe, and clean learning and working environments.

Rationale: Most custodial services support the daily operation and functionality of campus spaces, some tasks such as routine cleaning and maintenance of floor finishes are directly applicable to extending the useful life of such building materials.

Landscape / Grounds: 5%

General Department Description: Responsible for mowing, weeding, trimming, pruning, and ice/snow removal.

Rationale: Most landscape and grounds services support the upkeep of the areas adjacent to the exterior perimeter of campus buildings ensuring that walkways and gathering areas are free from debris and vegetation overgrowth, however, some tasks such as management of proper water drainage and management of vegetation that could compromise building facades are directly applicable to preserving the useful life of building systems and structures.

Director Bristow stated applying the credit will work in conjunction with the six-year escalator. The current consensus among staff is to apply one-third of the in-house expenditures in each of the first three years, so by the third year, campuses will have credit for 100 percent of the defined percentages above that can apply to their maintenance assessment target. Director Bristow introduced additional points for consideration regarding the crediting of in-house expenditures. These include counting 100 percent of the expenditures for demolition of obsolete buildings regardless of funding source, applying debt service for projects that contribute to maintenance and or renewal of facilities, and carrying over the hard costs of capital expenses for projects that exceed the scheduled annual maintenance assessment. Additionally, Director Bristow reviewed the 20-year projected investment portfolio for the Capital Renewal Initiative, which was broken down by funding sources – EBF, state investment with university match, in-house expenditure maintenance assessment, and new resources maintenance assessment.

Regent Rolph asked for clarification on how the percentages for each category were calculated. Director Bristow stated that the proposed percentages of each department/cost center were arrived at using a reasonable, logic-based approach proportional to the relevance of each facilities department/unit to maintenance and upkeep of campus buildings and supporting infrastructure, and that results in a consistent method that balances between bridging the campus differences and

accuracy in accounting for in-house investment that directly contributes to facilities and infrastructure maintenance.

Director Bristow stated that a granular accounting by staff position or FTE was not used because it would have resulted in an overly burdensome approach with respect to data management and reporting because the universities have enough differences on how they account for expenses and run their different systems. Regent Rolph is fine with the approach but wants to make sure that there is data that validates the percentages. Regent Schmidt stated that the Board needs to seek additional federal and state revenues for this initiative to reduce the maintenance assessment funding levels. The Board will act on the proposed methodology for crediting the universities' in-house expenditures at the February meeting.

(PowerPoint filed with Official Minutes)

UPDATE ON STATE'S INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH PROGRAMS – KU, KSU, AND WSU

Dr. Bonnie Rush, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, provided an update on how the College uses the state's investment funds. Since 2013, the state has appropriated \$5 million to the College to help improve its ranking by increasing the recruitment and retention of research faculty. During the first three years, the state funds were used to improve facilities (which helped attract top researchers), and are now being used to support research faculty salaries. Dean Rush stated that the state's investment has positively impacted the College's metrics. Since 2015, the College has seen steady increases in extramural research awards and the production of manuscripts. The College has also begun tracking licenses, patents, and filings to show its economic impact, which addresses the Board's Pillar III goal. Dean Rush then reviewed the different types of research being conducted, the number of graduates being produced, and the gross income associated with the services provided at the diagnostic lab and the health center.

Dr. Roy Jensen, Director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, provided an overview of how the state's investment funds have impacted the Cancer Center. In 2007, the state began appropriating \$5 million to the Cancer Center. The funds were used to support the Center's bid to be designated as a National Cancer Institute (NCI), which it achieved in 2012. Dr. Jensen stated that the State of Kansas, the Legislature, and the Governor were strong supporters and noted the designation would not have been realized without this support. The next step for the KU Cancer Center is to seek the NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center designation. To support this process, an additional \$5 million was appropriated from the state budget in 2020. Dr. Jensen stated that these funds are critical to the Cancer Center's competitive application, which was submitted in September 2021. Dr. Jensen also reviewed some of the key metrics for the Cancer Center including cancer research funding, which increased from \$14 million in 2002 to \$80 million in 2021, and the percentage of Kansans begin served, which has increased since the NCI designation was achieved. Regent Winter asked what is needed to make the Center even more successful. Dr. Jensen stated that new facilities will be needed to further expand the Center's research capacity.

Dr. David Rosowsky, Vice President for Research at Kansas State University, provided an overview of the state's investment in the University's Global Food Systems (GFS). In FY 2021, the Legislature appropriated \$5 million to Kansas State University to strengthen K-State's renowned programs and infrastructure in areas related to Global Food Systems. The intent of the

funding was to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in industries that are foundational to the Kansas economy. K-State serves as the epicenter for Top 10 ranked programs in research, teaching and engagement related to food systems research and workforce development. The GFS funding greatly enhances the ability of the University to establish Kansas and the region as the premier destination for food and animal health research and innovation. Dr. Rosowsky stated that the state's investment in its Global Food Systems has provided support for the Biosecurity Research Institute, a unique biosafety level-3 facility that supports multidisciplinary research and training, and has provided resources for industry attraction and technology commercialization efforts in agriculture and animal health. In FY 2021, K-State has onboarded 159 new industry-supported projects that total more than \$8.5 million, received more than \$3.33 million in licensing revenue for GFS technologies, and deployed more than 20 GFS technologies through new license and option agreements. The Board discussed K-State's licensing growth, and it was noted that some of the University's reporting software in agriculture is being used nationwide.

Andy Schlapp, Executive Director of Government Relations and Strategy at Wichita State University, gave an update on the Kansas Aviation Research and Technology Growth (KART) initiative. Wichita State receives \$10 million in state funding to support its aviation research and educational programs that grow the talent pipeline for this industry. Director Schlapp stated that out of the 100 largest cities in the U.S. metro area, Wichita is ranked number one in manufacturing jobs and number one in the percentage of jobs involving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). It also has the highest concentration of aerospace manufacturing employment in the nation. Director Schlapp stated in the early 2000s, aviation companies began moving their infrastructure and research out of Kansas. To reverse this trend, Wichita State partnered with the state and the aviation industry leaders to keep companies in Kansas, which included strategies to grow research funding and the talent pipeline. Director Schlapp noted that Wichita State is ranked number one in industry funding for Aerospace Engineering and ranked number three in industry funding for Engineering. Moving forward, it is important for Wichita and Kansas to continue to expand its aviation footprint by retaining and attracting companies. Currently, the aviation industry in Kansas accounts for 30,700 direct jobs and 113,590 indirect jobs with an average wage of \$70,381, and Kansas aerospace products and parts account for 21.5 percent of all exports for Kansas. Director Schlapp reviewed the funding streams and the types of research taking place in the KART program. Regent Lane asked how this model can be applied to other areas of innovation. Director Schlapp stated that partnering and meeting industry needs are vital and noted that higher education needs to be flexible to meet those needs in a timely manner.

(PowerPoints filed with Official Minutes)

BREAK

Chair Harrison-Lee thanked all the presenters and called for a ten-minute break. The meeting resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Other Matters

UPDATE ON PILLAR III: ECONOMIC PROSPERITY PLANS – KU, KSU, AND WSU

David Cook, Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs and Economic Development, presented the University of Kansas's economic prosperity plan, which encompasses all of KU's campuses. The plan focuses on three key areas that KU can leverage and grow:

- safety and security,
- molecules to medicine, and
- earth, energy + environment.

It contains three strategic goals – 1) increasing experiential learning, 2) growing innovation and entrepreneurship, and 3) strengthening industry, government, and community relationships. In the area of experiential learning, Vice Chancellor Cook stated that KU has done a good job with connecting students to Kansas businesses through its different career networking systems, but more can be done. He highlighted that KU is a net importer of students which creates an opportunity for the state to retain more talent. The key metrics under this goal will center around keeping graduates in Kansas and increasing the number of student internships and experiential learning opportunities. Vice Chancellor Cook stated that the KU Innovation Campus will be a key asset to achieving success in growing innovation and entrepreneurship. Under this goal, KU will measure the number of business startups, business spinouts, licensures, the number of companies that are housed on the KU campus, and the number of direct jobs being created. Regarding the goal of strengthen industry, government, and community relationships, Vice Chancellor Cook stated that KU will look at ways to increase the number of strategic and community partnerships. LaVerne Epp, Executive Chairman at the KU Innovation Park, highlighted the impact of the Innovation Park and the vision for growing its impact. He noted that over 60 companies are currently housed in the Park and that over 500 direct jobs have been created so far. KU concluded by noting that its target outcomes for its 15-year economic prosperity plan includes creating between 2,500 to 3,000 direct jobs with the annual direct wages totaling over \$270 million and building out its KU Innovation Park. Vice Chancellor Cook noted that KU is hoping to hold an event in the near future similar to K-State's to formally kickoff its plan.

Vice President Rosowsky reported that Kansas State University announced its ten-year Economic Prosperity Plan at the beginning of December. K-State's plan will build on its current strengths in areas of agriculture, biodefense, and biosecurity, and its goal is to bring 3,000 new jobs and \$3 billion in direct investments into the State of Kansas. Dr. Rosowsky stated that the plan specifically addresses the following themes:

- Food and agriculture system innovations – K-State researchers will work with producers to transform, sustain, and adapt food and agriculture systems worldwide to create jobs in Kansas.
- Digital agriculture and advance analytics – K-State will lead the global food system in creating and embracing leading-edge methods that are driven by data, analytics, and decision making in near real time.
- Biosecurity and biodefense – By leveraging state, regional, and federal resources to support commercialization, investment, and job growth, K-State will advance our state's biosecurity and biodefense strengths.

- K-State 105: Every Town to Gown – K-State will streamline methods for businesses and communities statewide to access our innovation, talent, and training through local liaisons and coordinated resources.

Dr. Rosowsky stated that this is a bold plan that has generated a lot of excitement on the campus, in the Manhattan area, and around the state.

John Tomblin, Senior Vice President for Industry and Defense Programs at Wichita State University (WSU) and the Executive Director of the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR), presented Wichita State University's ten-year Economic Prosperity Plan. WSU's plan will focus on expanding activities in the following areas:

- Innovation Campus,
- National Institute for Aviation Research, and
- National Institute for Research and Digital Transformation.

Its goal is to produce around 5,000 new net jobs and over \$2.5 billion in direct investments into the State of Kansas. Dr. Tomblin noted that the University's most valuable asset is the graduates it produces and stated that it is vital to connect those students to Kansas companies if the state wants to continue to grow its economy. He spoke about the different applied learning and internship opportunities that students have on the WSU campus and noted that the companies associated with the Innovation Campus continue to grow. Dr. Tomblin stated that the National Institute for Aviation Research continues to attract new companies to the state with its research capabilities and highlighted the NIAR-WERX program, which is a three-year earn and learn program that offers students full-time, paid employment with NIAR WERX in their maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) division while they are also progressing through WSU Tech's Aviation Maintenance Technology program and simultaneously earning credits towards the Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree in Organizational Leadership and Learning at Wichita State University. Regent Rolph noted that WSU has been a great partner with the City of Wichita and through that partnership, Wichita has been able to leverage all its assets to grow its aviation footprint.

Regent Winter stated that these presentations demonstrate how the higher education system is going beyond its education mission and really is creating opportunities to advance the state in key areas. He also believes that the Board and universities should look at the parameters around the economic development funds in the Commerce budget to see if those funds can be used on these types of initiatives. The Board leadership will work with President Flanders on developing strategies for these proposed funds.

(PowerPoints filed with Official Minutes)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Matt Casey, Director of Government Relations, reported that the legislative session began on Monday, January 10, 2022. Governor Kelly delivered her State of the State Address and outlined her budget recommendations, which included the following items for higher education:

- \$45.7 million to restore state investment to prior levels, recognizing inflationary cost increases to operate and freeze student tuition;
- \$25.0 million for need-based aid for university students (Kansas Access Partnership) with a private match;
- \$25.0 million for the Board's capital renewal initiative as a boost to improvements to facilities;
- \$2.5 million to fund Excel in CTE enrollments;
- \$6.0 million to fund a portion of the state's share of the cost model for tiered courses and non-tiered courses; and
- \$15 million of one-time SGF distributed across system of two-year colleges.

Director Casey stated that the Governor's budget recommendation also included \$195 million for competitive one-time university grants in the Commerce budget, which are the funds Regent Winter was referring to earlier. Regarding the Board's non-budgetary items, Director Casey reported that many are being introduced and hearings are being scheduled. A bill amending the Promise Act Scholarship was introduced by Senator Baumgardner and had a hearing yesterday in the Senate Education Committee. The bill includes changes to the Board's responsibilities and student eligibility requirements, and adds clarifying language around the eligible programs. Director Casey stated that funds to administer the program still need to be addressed. Regent Rolph stated that this scholarship benefits Kansas students, and he believes the Board needs to support its passage. He then moved to approve the Promise Act Trailer bill as a non-budgetary item for the Board. Regent Schmidt seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Rolph, Regent Feuerborn, Regent Hutton, Regent Ice, Regent Lane, Regent Schmidt, Regent Winter, and Regent Harrison-Lee. The motion carried.

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President of Finance and Administration, presented an overview of the Governor's budget recommendations. In addition to the higher education items that Director Casey highlighted, the Governor budget also includes \$600 million to re-establish a rainy-day fund so Kansas has cash set aside for when revenues do not meet estimates in the budget plan, funds to retire state debt early, and a proposal to eliminate the state's share of sales tax on food. Regent Lane asked to receive a summary of the budget recommendations.

Regent Rolph stated that he believes the student tuition freeze associated with the \$45.7 million to restore the state universities is really a cost freeze and includes student fees. Regent Winter concurred and stated that he believes the Board should take a strong stance to support the cost freeze if the funding is provided. The Board discussed its support for the recommendation and how their support should be communicated.

INFORMATION ON THE BOARD'S DATA COLLECTIONS

Vice President Frisbie reported that the Board office collects a significant amount of data on the higher education system and noted that most of the data can be reviewed on the Board's website. Since 1993, the Board office has published a state university data book, which contains information on university finances, tuition and fees, students, faculty and staff, and facilities. These books along with information on the other sectors of higher education are available on the Board's website under the Data tab. Judd McCormack, Associate Director of Reporting, then reviewed all the data that is available on the Board's Kansas Higher Education Statistics (KHEStats) website.

He noted that soon the site will contain data on tuition and fees, graduation rates, and retention rates, which are all metrics associated with the Board's strategic plan. Associate Director McCormack also navigated through the Board's Kansas DegreeStats portal; the Transfer Kansas portal, which provides information on systemwide transfer courses for Kansas public colleges and universities; and the Military Articulation portal, which is an interactive search tool that veterans and servicemembers can use to review credit for prior military learning offered by Kansas public postsecondary institutions. President Flanders noted that Kansas is leading the nation in its efforts to credit prior military learning. Regent Rolph asked if staff tracks site statistics to determine what information the public is reviewing. It was noted that site activity is tracked, and that information can be provided. Regent Lane stated that the Board office collects a lot of useful data, and she would like to see a dashboard that displays the *Building a Future* metrics. Regent Schmidt concurred and noted that the dashboard should focus on the key metrics in the plan.

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Regent Rolph moved to appoint Greg Kossover as the Chair of the Emporia State University Search Committee. He noted that Mr. Kossover has served as Executive Vice President of Equity Bank since October 2013, as Chief Financial Officer from 2013 to 2020 and COO beginning in July of 2020. Mr. Kossover has served as a member of its board of directors since December 2011. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Kossover was President of Physicians Development Group, a builder and manager of senior living facilities in the Wichita. He was Chief Executive Officer of Value Place, LLC, one of the largest economy extended-stay lodging franchises in the United States. Mr. Kossover previously served as Treasurer of Western Financial Corporation, a publicly held thrift holding company. Mr. Kossover graduated from Emporia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and has successfully completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountants exam. Regent Lane seconded. On a roll call vote, the following Regents voted affirmatively to adopt the motion: Regent Rolph, Regent Feuerborn, Regent Hutton, Regent Ice, Regent Lane, Regent Schmidt, Regent Winter, and Regent Harrison-Lee. The motion carried.

RECESS

Chair Harrison-Lee recessed the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

RECONVENE

Chair Harrison-Lee reconvened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2022.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Chair
Jon Rolph, Vice Chair
Bill Feuerborn
Mark Hutton
Carl Ice
Cynthia Lane
Allen Schmidt
Wint Winter

MEMBER ABSENT: Shelly Kiblinger

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA*Presentation***UPDATE ON THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS TASK FORCE**

Chair Harrison-Lee welcomed Jim McNiece, State Board of Education Member, and Jarred Fuhrman, Principal at Basehor-Linwood High School. Member McNiece and Principal Fuhrman are co-chairing the State Board of Education's Graduation Requirements Task Force. In June 2021, the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education charged the Task Force to examine graduation requirements in Kansas in the following areas: 1) identify courses to add or delete from current requirements (if any), 2) review ways to demonstrate mastery of skills and competencies, 3) study need for value-added assets in addition to high school diploma (i.e. industry-recognized certificate, CTE, college credits), and 4) ensure all students are included and all opportunities for success are studied. Member McNiece stated that the Task Force membership is diverse and includes individuals from all over the state who represent different organizations in both the public and private sectors. Subcommittees were formed for each of the areas of focus and the members are looking at what other states have done, data that the Education Commission of the States has collected, and historical information on Kansas graduation requirements. It was also noted that the Task Force created a work group to focus on special needs students. Principal Fuhrman stated that the Task Force would like to receive feedback from the Board of Regents on what the higher education system sees as important requirements and noted that its next meeting was scheduled for March 3. After the Task Force collects all the feedback from the different stakeholders, it will present its recommendations to the State Board of Education for final consideration at its May meeting.

The Regents discussed how important it is for the two Kansas educational systems to continue to work together on issues that help students transition from secondary to postsecondary. The Board discussed how this process is especially difficult for first generation and disadvantaged students. Regent Schmidt stated that the state's college-going rate continues to decline and that there needs to be a way to identify those students who do not transition to the higher education system. The Board also discussed the idea of making the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion a graduation requirement. Regent Hutton believes it is important to create a vision on what higher education can do for individual students and does not know if requiring the FAFSA is the right approach since it is a complicated document to fill out. Regent Rolph noted that the Board asked the State Board of Education to consider making the FAFSA a graduation requirement during the joint meeting in September because the data shows that states that have implemented this as a requirement have higher college-going rates. Regent Lane stated that the College Advising Corps program is a model that could be used throughout the state and noted these advisors are in the high schools to help students move through the college admissions process. President Flanders also stated that there are barriers around sharing a student's Individual Plan of Study with the advisors on the college campuses. He believes if this information can be shared, higher education advisors can help students identify pathways in the higher education system that match their strengths and interests. Regent Harrison-Lee thanked Member McNiece and Principal Fuhrman for their presentation and noted that the Board will provide its feedback to the Task Force by March 3, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harrison-Lee adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Chair