

**Council of Chief Academic Officers  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The September 8, 2020 meeting of the Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Rick Muma at 10:40 a.m. The meeting was held through Zoom. Members and the public were welcome to listen at the KBOR offices.

**In Attendance:**

Members:	Rick Muma, WSU	Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Robert Klein, KUMC
	Charles Taber, K-State	David Cordle, ESU	JuliAnn Mazachek, Washburn
	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	Howard Smith, PSU	Daniel Archer, KBOR
Staff:	Sam Christy-Dangermond	Amy Robinson	Cindy Farrier
	Karla Wiscombe	Tara Lebar	
Others:	Brad Bennett, Colby CC	Jean Redeker, KU	Brian Niehoff, K-State
	Jason Sharp, Labette CC	Lua Yuille, KU	Mark Allen, Independence CC
	Sandy Valenti, ESU	Mickey McCloud, JCCC	Monette Depew, Pratt CC
	Linnea GlenMaye, WSU	Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC	Brenton Phillips, Cloud County CC
	Cindy Hoss, Hutchinson CC	Jane Holwerda, Dodge City CC	Jon Marshall, Allen County CC
	Haley Reiter, FHSU	Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU	Aron Potter, Coffeyville CC
	Scott Lucas, WSU Tech	Tonya Ricklefs, Washburn	Lori Winningham, Butler CC
	Jerry Pope, KCKCC	Jennifer Ball, Washburn	Luke Dowell, Seward County CC
	Heather Morgan, KACCT		

Rick Muma welcomed everyone, and roll call was taken.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chuck Taber moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting, and Jill Arensdorf seconded the motion. With no corrections or discussion, the motion passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Readings**

- KU is requesting a Master of Engineering in Bioengineering. Barbara Bichelmeyer stated this new degree is the same as the MS in Bioengineering but does not require a thesis. Jean Redeker added that there is strong enrollment in the current degree, and the new program will substitute course work for the thesis. Barbara noted the change is being driven by student requests.

No action is required for first readings. This program will be presented for a vote at the next COCAO meeting.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Readings**

- KU is requesting a Bachelor of Health Sciences in the School of Professional Studies at the Edwards Campus. This is an online completion degree and collaborated between KUMC and JCCC. Rick noted that at the first reading there were questions whether this degree could or would be offered virtually and asked Barbara Bichelmeyer for a follow up. Barbara responded that there will be courses in the program that will be offered virtually. She noted that this degree connects with programing at KUMC. She noted there is great demand in the region. David Cordle asked if the BHS was a common degree designation. Barbara responded that it matched with the CIP Code in the standard index, and because it ties into the School of Professional Studies and links them with KUMC, it seemed an appropriate name for the

program. Committee members discussed that this degree is common and used in other institutions such as at Washburn University. Committee members posed no further questions.

Jill Arensdorf motioned to approve the Bachelor of Health Sciences, and Chuck Taber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Rick noted this proposal will be forwarded to COPS for approval.

- K-State is requesting a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences. This program will combine computational skills with any thematic area across the university. No questions were presented by the Committee since the first reading.

David Cordle motioned to approve the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Computer Science, and Jill Arensdorf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Rick noted this proposal will be forwarded to COPS for approval.

- K-State is requesting a Bachelor of Science in Public Health in the College of Health and Human Sciences/Kinesiology. Chuck Taber stated he has not received any questions or comments since the first reading.

Barbara Bichelmeyer motioned to approve the Bachelor of Science in Public Health, and Howard Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Rick noted this proposal will be forwarded to COPS for approval.

### **Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update**

Aleksander Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU Faculty Senate President, provided an update. Aleks stated the first COFSP meeting won't be until the following day. He stated in the first meeting the Council will work on plans to craft a freedom of speech policy at a regents level at the request of KBOR CEO Blake Flanders which could be disseminated to universities to build from. He noted that COFSP worked on this last year and were unable to pass a policy, but this year they believe there is legislative interest and he would like to have something in place before any legislative action would commence. Aleks stated the Council will also be discussing the General Education package and Associate to Bachelor degree transfer issue that the Board will be looking at, and more specifically, crafting a statement of support or non-support.

### **Other Matters**

- Rick Muma noted the University Press of Kansas Board of Trustees will need to meet after adjournment of COCAO to discuss time-sensitive matters. Members had no objections to meeting upon adjournment.
- Sam Christy-Dangermond provided information on updating university admissions policies. The proposed changes to Qualified Admissions came about from a 2018 Board Goal to simplify the admissions process with a focus on a pre-college curriculum. The Board is anticipated to approve the changes at their next meeting, as outlined in the provided materials. As such, state universities will need to update their admissions policies. KAR 88-29c-9 requires universities to establish admissions policies that meet specific requirements and that these be approved by the Board. Sam requested that each institution submit an updated admissions policy to KBOR Academic Affairs. She proposed the due date of December 11, 2020 and asked if any members had feedback on this possible date. The Committee agreed that this date was acceptable. Sam noted that universities can submit their updated policies to her, Amy, or Daniel.
- Daniel Archer provided recommendations for identifying high school courses for college preparation. Daniel noted that the Board approved changes to admission criteria last year, and one of the most

significant is specific high school courses will no longer be required for explicit condition of admission. He noted that this means units rather than specific courses will be recommended to encourage preparation. Over the last several months, KBOR has received feedback from several K-12 entities indicating it would be helpful for KBOR to recommend some specific courses. KBOR is recommending COCAO endorse the Kansas Scholars Curriculum to be used as the recommended course work rather than going with general units. These courses are required in secondary education to be eligible for state funded scholarships and noted this also makes sense due to the familiarity with the curriculum, and it will help guide more students to a path towards higher education. He noted this is only a recommendation, and therefore will not be regulated or reviewed by the universities. Jill Arensdorf asked for clarification if courses are required to be taken within only the high school years. Daniel responded that the Kansas Scholars Curriculum is framed as such that students are allowed to use courses taken from grades 8-12.

David Cordle motioned to approve the Kansas Scholars Curriculum as the recommended courses for qualified admission, and Howard Smith seconded the motion. With no further questions or discussion, the motion passed.

- Daniel Archer discussed future collaborations with Chief Diversity Officers in addressing graduation equity gaps. Addressing these gaps is one of the biggest components in the new strategic plan passed by the Board in June. Going forward, he anticipates a Board Goal to work with Chief Diversity Officers and entities at the 2-year institutions to identify best practices which may be scalable across the state and implemented individually to address the gaps. Daniel noted the Chief Diversity Officers meet weekly and they will provide updates at future SCOCAO meetings to ensure everyone is on the same page moving forward and everyone is aware of actions taken and any impacts that may result.

#### **Future University Opportunities and Plans**

- Howard Smith noted the PSU College of Business is working on a Center for Professional Sales. He noted that they have some alumni that would like more work in that area and they also have a certificate in the area. PSU is currently putting together a proposal for the center.
- David Cordle stated ESU has a group of faculty drafting a proposal for a new Master in Applied Sociology. David noted that what has been drafted so far indicated no other Master's programs in the system in Sociology have the applied focus that this program will consist of.
- Barbara Bichelmeyer stated KU is working on a Doctorate of Social Welfare.

#### **Adjournment**

Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to adjourn the meeting, and Jill Arensdorf seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.