

**Council of Chief Academic Officers
MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

The March 17, 2021 meeting of the Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Shirley Lefever at 8:44 a.m.

In Attendance:

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| Members: | Shirley Lefever, WSU Chuck Taber, K-State Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU | Jill Arensdorf, FHSU David Cordle, ESU Howard Smith, PSU | Robert Klein, KUMC JuliAnn Mazachek, Washburn Daniel Archer, KBOR |
| Staff: | Sam Christy-Dangermond Karla Wiscombe Connie Beene | Amy Robinson Tara Lebar | April Henry Cindy Farrier |
| Others: | Erin Shaw, Highland CC Jerry Pope, KCKCC Adam Borth, Fort Scott CC Brian Niehoff, K-State Heather Morgan, KACCT Jennifer Ball, Washburn Kim Krull, Butler CC Linnea GlenMaye, WSU Monette DePew, Pratt CC Stuart Day, KU | Corey Isbell, NCK Tech Aron Potter, Coffeyville CC Alysia Johnston, Fort Scott CC Jean Redeker, KU Kaye Monk-Morgan, WSU Kim Morse, Washburn Mickey McCloud, JCCC Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC Mindy Markham, K-State Scott Lucas, WSU Tech | Sarah Robb, Neosho County CC Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU Cindy Hoss, Hutchinson CC Elaine Simmons, Barton County CC Jane Holwerda, Dodge City CC Kim Zant, Cloud County CC Mark Allen, Independence CC Luke Dowell, Seward County CC Sandy Valenti, ESU Pamela Kempton, K-State |

Shirley Lefever welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken for members and presenters.

Approval of Minutes

Chuck Taber moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting, and Jill Arensdorf seconded the motion. With no corrections, the motion passed.

1st Readings

- Chuck Taber presented the K-State request for a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. Chuck Taber stated this is an area that has student interest and is needed in workforce development. It is also an area where there are important national and regional problems needing to be solved. Chuck stated there is no other Environmental Science program in Kansas but noted KU has an Environmental Studies program. In comparison, the K-State program is more of a focused quantitative science bachelor program, and the KU program includes more social sciences and humanities. The BS in Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary discipline that makes use of existing courses and faculty across multiple departments. Pamela Kempton, Head of their Geology Department, was also available for questions. Jill Arensdorf commented that FHSU has a similar BA in Environmental Geoscience, which was approved several years ago. No questions were presented.
- Barbara Bichelmeyer and Stuart Day presented the KU request for a Master of Arts in Organizational Communication. Stuart, Dean of KU Edwards Campus School of Professional Studies, summarized their request. He noted they already offer a track for Organizational Communication as an option within Communication Studies at the Edwards Campus. The MA in Communication Studies is housed within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on the Lawrence campus, but the MA in Organizational

Communication, would be housed in the School of Professional Studies at the Edwards Campus. Stuart stated the Lawrence Campus Organizational Communication program takes a theoretical approach, and on the Edwards Campus, it will take a more applied approach. Stuart said to make it more attractive, they will place it online and place more emphasis on workforce development. KU feels the program will do well in the Metro area and beyond. No questions were presented.

- Both programs will be up for a second reading and vote at the next COCAO meeting.

Other Requests

The Council agreed to vote on the following six requests in one motion:

- Act on Request for Approval to consolidate the Department of Social Sciences and the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Crime & Delinquency Studies - ESU
- Act on Request for Approval for Name Change of Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences to the Department of Physical Therapy, Rehabilitation Science, and Athletic Training – KUMC
- Act on Request for Approval for Name Change of Master in Interior Architecture and Product Design to Master of Interior Architecture – KSU
- Act on Request for Approval for Name Change of BS in General Business to BS in Business Administration – KSU
- Act on Request for Approval for Name Change of Master in Apparel and Textiles to Master in Fashion Studies – KSU
- Act on Request for Approval for Name Change of BS in Molecular Biosciences to BS in Applied Biological Sciences – KU

Howard Smith motioned to approve the six other requests as presented, and Jill Arensdorf seconded. With no further discussion or questions, the motion passed unanimously. These requests will go to Blake Flanders, President and CEO, for final approval.

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update

Aleksander Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU Faculty Senate President, provided an update from the Council. Aleks stated the Council would be discussing a proposal being reviewed by the Governance Committee today, which requests an ad hoc committee be formed to review the Covid-19 policy. Aleks stated the Council also plans to discuss faculty morale and mental health. The Council has requested Daniel Archer provide a General Education (GE) Working Group update at their April meeting. No questions were presented.

Other Matters

Howard Smith stated PSU is continuing to work on their computer science program and looking at possible sustainability program adjustments. Howard stated based on return-on-investment work PSU has done over the last several years, they will be looking at their academic affair's organizational structures. Barbara asked if "organizational structures" regards the way PSU schools are set up or administration. Howard responded the term refers to both.

Barbara Bichelmeyer stated KU is making test-optional admissions permanent. Their request is on the BAASC agenda and the Board agenda later the same day. Board staff is revising KU's Qualified Admission Policy to make corrections, so they took this opportunity to request the ability to admit students with a minimum 3.25 high school GPA without a test score through this guaranteed admissions process instead of using KU's current review committee.

Shirley Lefever stated WSU just approved an MOU with KU for the KU Law School regarding a Legal Education Accelerated Degree (LEAD) program. The MOU is part of the KBOR-approved expansion of their 3+3 program, allowing undergraduate students at KU to enroll in their Law School after successfully completing

three years of undergraduate studies. The WSU agreement allows for 29 credit hours earned in a student's first year of law school to count as both credits towards completion of the WSU undergraduate degree and towards completion of the KU Law School degree.

David Cordle stated ESU is discussing developing a mechanism that would allow students whose face-to-face courses were shifted online during the pandemic to audit that course without charge.

Adjournment

Shirley Lefever reminded the Council members the University Press of Kansas Board of Trustees would meet at noon. The next COCAO meeting will be on April 14, 2021.

Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to adjourn the meeting, and Chuck Taber seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.