

**Council of Chief Academic Officers  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

The April 14, 2021 meeting of the Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Shirley Lefever at 9:39 a.m.

**In Attendance:**

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 Judd McCormack	April Henry Cindy Farrier
Others:	Erin Shaw, Highland CC Ann Brill, KU Adam Borth, Fort Scott CC Bobby Winters, PSU Christine Brodsky, PSU Clay Stoldt, WSU Heather Morgan, KACCT Jason Sharp, Labette CC Jennifer Ball, Washburn Jeremy Patterson, WSU Linnea GlenMaye, WSU Maggie Schoonover, WSU Monette DePew, Pratt CC Shannon Portillo, KU Sharon Kibbe, Highland CC	Corey Isbell, NCK Tech Aron Potter, Coffeyville CC Andrew Hippisley, KU Carl Hummell, WSU Carter File, Hutchinson CC Jean Redeker, KU Jerry Pope, KCKCC Jon Marshall, Allen CC Kim Morse, Washburn Jeromy Fisher, WSU Mickey McCloud, JCCC Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC Mindy Markham, K-State Sandy Valenti, ESU Stanton Gartin, SATC	Sarah Robb, Neosho County CC Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU Brian Niehoff, K-State Cindy Hoss, Hutchinson CC Deanna Carpenter, Allen CC Elaine Simmons, Barton CC Jane Holwerda, Dodge City CC Jody Fiorini, WSU Kim Zant, Cloud County CC Luke Dowell, Seward County CC Mike Zimmerman, NWK Tech Rija Kahn, WSU Shelly Gehrke, ESU Taylor Crawshaw, Independence CC Tiffany Evans, Colby CC

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Howard Smith moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting, and Chuck Taber seconded the motion. With no corrections, the motion passed.

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

- Chuck Taber presented the K-State request for a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science for approval. Chuck Taber stated he had not received any concerns or questions since the first reading.
- Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the KU request for a Master of Arts in Organizational Communication. Barbara stated she had not received any concerns or questions since the first reading. No questions were presented.

The Council approved both requests unanimously, so both will go to COPS for approval later in the day.

## Other Requests

- Barbara Bichelmeyer and Ann Brill, Dean of Journalism and Mass Communications, presented the KU requests for a name change of their Bachelor of Science in Journalism to Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Mass Communications, a name change of their Master of Science in Journalism to Master of Science in Journalism and Mass Communications, and a name change of their Doctorate in Journalism and Mass Communication to Doctorate in Journalism and Mass Communications. This alignment is a matter of consistency in their degree names and a better reflection of the research, teaching, and service they provide.

David Cordle moved to approve the KU request for name changes, and Chuck Taber seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote.

- Shirly Lefever and faculty presented three WSU requests. The first is to change the name of their Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership, Educational and School Psychology (CLES) to Intervention Services and Leadership in Education (ISLE). Interim Dean Clay Stoldt summarized this request. The primary reason for this change is due to restructuring within the college and shifted several programs to this department. The second request is for a Minor in Multi-Organizational Leadership, and Master Sgt. Jeromy Fisher provided a summary. Master Sgt. Fisher stated this will allow graduate students who major in nursing or engineering to have a minor that reflects their ROTC curriculum and military training and can be shown on a resume or to a potential employer. The third request is for a Minor in Sustainability in the College of Innovation Design. Dean Jeremy Patterson indicated the request for this minor is based on their previous work with a sustainability initiative. The minor will consist of 15 credit hours and will be managed by a new hire with a background in sustainability.

Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to approve the three WSU requests as presented, and Chuck Taber seconded. With no further discussion or questions, the motion passed unanimously.

- Howard Smith presented the PSU request for a Minor in Sustainability. Howard stated this request is similar to the previous WSU request and comes from their Integrated Studies area. Dr. Bobby Winters, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, noted PSU has a Major in Sustainability, which has emphasized their Integrated Studies program for the last several years, and it is one of PSU's most successful programs. Dr. Christine Brodsky, Assistant Professor of Biology, provided a background, noting since 2015, they have seen student interest increase across their campus, and students have requested a minor so they can delve more deeply into sustainability coursework. The minor will consist of 19 hours.

David Cordle moved to approve the PSU request as presented, and Jill Arensdorf seconded. With no further discussion or questions, the motion passed unanimously.

- Chuck Taber presented two K-State requests. The first is a request to change the name of their Professional Pilot program to Bill Gross Professional Pilot program. Chuck discussed Bill's background and their support for the K-State Salina campus. K-State requests this change to recognize Bill for his contributions to their university and specifically to their Professional Pilot program. The second request is to change their Master of Arts in Geography to Master of Science in Geography. K-State recently received approval to change the name of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences. The current request does not create a change in curriculum.

Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the K-State requests as presented, and Barbara Bichelmeyer 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 hear an update from Daniel Archer from the General Education (GE) Working Group. The Council had requested a workgroup be formed to look at the temporary, pandemic-related workforce management policy on dismissals which met the previous week. That group revised language, which was proposed to and approved by the Governance Committee earlier in the morning and will go to the Board later in the afternoon for consideration. The Council may also have discussions around Program Review. He noted the reviews include department costs and credit hours generated but may not consider faculty production such as grants and donor money they bring in, relationships they build, and notoriety to their respective campuses. No questions were presented.

### **Discuss Election Day as a Non-Instructional Holiday**

Rija Kahn, WSU Student Body President and Chair of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), presented for discussion the student initiative to add federal election days as non-instructional holidays, which occur every two years. She provided data points and discussed the SAC rationale behind this request. Rija noted other universities outside of Kansas have already taken steps to designate the federal election date as a university holiday, and they believe this would help students become more engaged voters. SAC is not asking for it to become a university holiday, but instead, they request this be a non-instructional day for students. While they feel this request is a compromise based on institutional concerns, they would like to discuss any additional considerations to help move this initiative forward.

David asked if student leadership at regent universities is unified in this request. The SAC meets monthly, and Rija stated they had discussions and agreed to move this initiative forward. Barbara noted KU has already had movement on this issue. The KU Student Senate recently voted to swap the Thursday of fall break for a federal election day in 2022 and discussed including local elections. The KU Vice Provost of Student Affairs is working with the Student Center to submit a proposal to their University Calendar Committee for consideration. Daniel stated that BAASC has expressed interest in discussing this proposal and asked if any Chief Academic Officers opposed the idea. Though a few indicated more discussions might need to occur to address logistics and calendar issues, the CAO's did not express opposition. Barbara noted this also ties into accreditation standards and university calendar committee work and may need approval through those channels. She also stated there might be associated costs to consider. Barbara suggested they provide implementation data to BAASC. Shirley Lefever suggested the SAC members go back to their respective campuses for the additional information, and Rija could continue working with Daniel to move this initiative forward.

### **Opportunities that Universities are Considering or Planning to Pursue in the Future**

Jill Arensdorf stated FHSU would have an MS in Computer Science Application. They are behind due to the pandemic but will be continuing to move forward. Howard Smith said PSU will have a similar program coming forward shortly as well.

### **Adjournment**

Shirley Lefever reminded the Council members the University Press of Kansas Board of Trustees would meet later in the day. The next COCAO meeting will be on May 19, 2021.

Howard Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, and Chuck Taber seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.