

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
February 1, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Buhler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Kansas room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were: Regent Buhler, Regent Dicus, Regent Dietrick, Regent Fisher, Regent Hulse, Regent Nave, Regent Padilla, Regent Romero, and *Regent Sourk.

*Participated via Zoom protocol.

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Buhler shared today marks the one-year anniversary for President Mazachek. She thanked the President for all she has accomplished in one year. The University is celebrating its 159th Birthday today. It is also the Annual Day of Giving and Marshall Meek will provide an update later.

B. President's Report

President Mazachek noted the interesting start to the year with really cold weather and a water boil advisory. She recognized her leadership team on how well they stepped up to keep the students here on campus and safe during that time. The President also thanked the facilities staff that worked hard to keep the sidewalks clear.

President Mazacheck stated enrollment numbers are positive and asked Dr. Alan Bearman to share a few Enrollment updates.

Dr. Bearman discussed the complications around the rollout of the new FAFSA procedures. As expected, it has caused a lot of angst among students and their families. The Financial Aid team has been working hard to assist these students and is currently holding sessions every week on both campuses. Their staff have also been travelling to area high schools to provide assistance. Dr. Bearman thanked his team for their hard work.

President Mazachek reported Provost John Fritch will start on February 19. The first priority will be filling the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences position. The University is in the process of choosing a search firm and will soon be selecting the search committee. An announcement is anticipated in early March.

President Mazachek reported Washburn recently hosted four candidates on campus for the Law Dean search. The President will be gathering feedback the next couple of weeks, checking references, and plans to make an announcement by late February.

President Mazachek called on Loren Ferre, Director of Athletics, to give an update on Athletics.

Mr. Ferre noted the doors to the Indoor Athletic Facility opened in November of 2020 and the university held the first track meet in 2021. This weekend, they will host the Washburn Open. They anticipate hosting 1,562 athletes. Five division one schools are attending the meet. Some teams are over four hours away which means they will be supporting our local hotels and restaurants. The athletic department is also hosting baseball, softball tournaments, and basketball at the same time. Mr. Ferre thanked the Board of Regents for their support of the indoor athletic facility. He shared every coach shows this facility when recruiting students.

President Mazachek introduced David Pacer, Owner and Financial Advisor of Infinitas. The University hired Infinitas 5 years ago and began working with Mr. Pacer to secure the best investments for our employees.

Mr. Pacer shared his appreciation of working with Teresa Lee and her team. Infinitas is a national business driven by robust technology and services. Their company has a unique ability to help create successful retirement outcomes for participants. All their services are performed in-house. Infinitas partnered with the existing TIAA representatives for Washburn to find the best services and cost savings for the employees. President Mazachek thanked Mr. Pacer and Teresa Lee for their work in this process to enhance the benefits for our employees.

President Mazachek shared Sigma Phi Epsilon, Kansas Delta chapter at Washburn University, recently earned the Donald C. McCleary Excellence in Member Development Award. The award recognizes chapters nationwide that show commitment to continuous development and provide unique and individualized opportunities for its members. Congratulations to Sigma Phi Epsilon.

President Mazachek noted Ichabod's of Industry was held this morning on campus and featured David Callahan and Cody Foster from Advisors Excel. The event was well attended. The President is proud of Advisors Excel's leadership in our community and their support of Washburn University.

IV. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Dicus to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the December 7, 2023, meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – November 2023**
- 3. Liquidated Claims Approval – December 2023**
- 4. Faculty/Staff Personnel Actions**

B. Action Items

1. Washburn University Strategic Plan

President Mazacheck presented this item and noted a task force has been working hard the past 6 months gathering feedback and developing the framework for this plan. It was a very inclusive process with opportunities for many to have a voice. The plan will guide Washburn leadership in decision making and determining our goals.

The President shared the Mission statement is *Washburn Creates Educational Pathways to Success for Everyone*. She detailed the Mission, Vision, and Values statements. The plan includes three priorities with outcome measures listed for each priority. The President noted that her leadership team will develop work plans that are built on this framework. The plan will be reviewed on a regular basis and the team will work together to adjust plans as needed to meet our outcomes.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Padilla to approve the Strategic Plan. Motion passed.

2. Eminentes Universitatis

Vice President Luther Lee shared Washburn awards the title Eminentes Universitatis to long-term employees who meet the requirements of employed as a technical instructor, staff employee or equivalent for ten years or more, retire in good standing, and service performed was judged to have been meritorious. Washburn is happy to present this award to Kent McAnnally. Mr. McAnnally began his service at Washburn in 2006 as the Director of Career Services. He has demonstrated exceptional dedication, competence, and contributions to our institution. Through annual career fairs, Kent has engaged over 20,000 students

directly with potential employers, as well as creating specific career fairs for Health Care and Education. A leader in the Kansas Career Services community, he has received numerous awards, most recently, the Brad Barackman Bridge Award.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Nave to approve bestowing the status of Eminentes Universitatis to Kent McAnally. Motion passed.

3. Honorary Degree Candidates

Dr. Laura Stephenson presented the item and reported the Honorary Degree is the highest honor the university bestows. The committee solicits nominations from faculty, students, the Washburn Board of Regents, Washburn Foundation, and the Washburn Alumni Association. The persons being put forward have been reviewed and recommended for Honorary Degrees by the committee: Jim Concannon, School of Law, Doctor of Law; Bette Morris, College of Arts and Sciences, Doctor of Fine Arts; and Richard Ross, School of Applied Studies, Doctor of Humane Letters.

Motion by Regent Fisher and seconded by Regent Dietrick to approve the awarding of the three Honorary Degrees. Motion passed.

5. Transition Associate of Science (AS) degrees in Allied Health to Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees

Dr. Laura Stephenson presented this item and noted the Board approved curriculum changes last semester that are similar. The reason for the change is due to the change in General Education requirements. The transition will allow Washburn to remain competitive with other institutions who are already offering AAS degrees in allied health areas.

Motion by Regent Hulse and seconded by Regent Nave to approve. Motion passed.

6. Henderson Learning and Resources Center – Naming of Renovated Building

Marshall Meek, President of Washburn Alumni Association and Foundation, provided an update on the Annual Day of Giving. He shared that there are 60 different projects across campus you can support, and some have matching gifts. Currently, they have raised \$241,073 from 651 gifts which is tracking ahead of last year.

Mr. Meek presented the next item. Washburn is in the planning phase of a \$35,000,000 renovation to Henderson Learning Resources Center. This is the largest fundraising to date, with naming rights to attract donors. Last April, Advisors Excel made a significant contribution to the project that exceeded the threshold for naming recognition that Washburn uses for naming buildings. The

gift also generated significant momentum in the fundraising efforts for the renovation. Mr. Meek stated recognition for former President John Henderson will be displayed within the building at the completion of the renovation.

Motion by Regent Padilla and seconded by Regent Dicus to approve the naming of Henderson Learning Resources Center to Advisors Excel Hall. Motion passed.

7. Recital Hall Naming

Marshall Meek presented the next item and noted the construction of a new recital hall will start with the groundbreaking which is scheduled next week. The \$8,000,000 budget for the project was previously approved by the Board of Regents in December of 2023 which includes \$5,000,000 in private funding. Last year, the Foundation received a gift from Washburn Alumnus James Hurd which exceeds the threshold for naming recognition that Washburn uses for naming buildings. As such, we ask the Board to name the Recital Hall “Dr. James Hurd Recital Hall.”

Motion by Regent Fisher and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the naming of Dr. James Hurd Recital Hall. Motion passed.

8. Mabee Design Services – School of Applied Studies Relocation Project

Vice President Luther Lee presented the item and noted in 2022 Washburn University was awarded an ARPA grant in the amount of \$3,000,000 from the State. Washburn proposed a remodel and refresh of the current Mabee Library to become the new home for the School of Applied Studies (SAS), which currently resides in Benton Hall. Washburn published an RFP for the design services of the project. The university received seven proposals and evaluated them based on experience, ability to meet schedule, and cost of services. Washburn recommends HTK to be awarded the contract in the amount of \$163,700.

Motion by Regent Buhler and seconded by Regent Hulse to approve awarding the contract to HTK. Motion passed.

9. Washburn Lee Arena Event Center Renovation Project

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and shared Lee Arena is the space where Washburn hosts celebrations such as Commencement as well as athletic events. The proposed renovation project would provide a more inviting space for such events, along with creating additional space within the arena. The project will be funded by private and university funds. Washburn developed and published an RFP for the project. Proposals were received from four design firms and were reviewed on experience, team members, their ability to meet schedule,

and cost of services. Washburn recommends Schwerdt Design Group (SDG) be awarded the contract for a fee of \$297,500.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Fisher to award the contract to SDG. Motion passed.

10. Computer Refresh Program

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and thanked John Haverty, Chief Information Officer, and his team for their work on this project. The proposal recommends entering into a lease to own contract with Lenovo. It will provide full-time faculty and staff with updated personal computers as well as in most classrooms. It is a five-year lease with annual payments of \$390,591. At the completion of the lease, the University will purchase for \$1 each.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Dietrick to approve a lease agreement with Lenovo for five years. Motion passed.

11. Resolution for Authorization of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool Transactions

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. This resolution will update the authorized users for this account. Due to recent changes in the Director of Accounting and the Assistant Vice President Finance positions, the university needs to add additional staff members with authorization to these accounts.

Motion by Regent Hulse and seconded by Regent Padilla to adopt the resolution. Motion passed.

V. Next Meeting Date

A. Board of Regents Budget Work Session – February 1, 2024, immediately following Board Meeting

B. Board of Regents Meeting – Thursday, March 21, 2024

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Fisher to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents