

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
September 21, 2017

I. Call to Order

Chairperson McGivern called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were: Mr. Beck, Mr. Boles, Mr. Hoferer, Mr. McGivern, Mrs. Parks (arrived 4:02), Mr. Sneed, Mrs. Sourk and Mr. Wolgast. Mrs. Van Etten is not present.

III. Approval of Minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting

It was moved by Regent Sneed and seconded by Regent Sourk to approve the Minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting. Motion passed.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chairman McGivern stated he would really like a concerted effort to get students inside the stadium. He has attended two road games this year and their students were inside and supporting the home team. Trying to think of ways to get folks inside and not outside the fence.

B. President's Report

President Farley introduced the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Laura Stephenson.

Dean Stephenson introduced Dennis Etzel – Lecturer in the English Department who teaches poetry. On September 10, Mr. Etzel received the Troy Scoggins award from the Topeka City Council for his message of tolerance and social justice. Mr. Etzel shared one of his poems because there is not enough poetry at Board of Regents meetings.

Dean Stephenson also introduced faculty member Dr. Sharon Sullivan, Chair of the Theatre Department. Last night Dr. Sullivan received the 2017 Women of Influence in Education Award from Go Topeka.

Dr. Farley reported this past August, Dr. Klales, Assistant Professor of Forensic Anthropology took some students to recover remains found at Melvern Lake. The

remains were brought back to the KBI facility where the students are working with KBI personnel to identify the remains.

President Farley said Washburn Tech participants at SkillsUSA were invited to appear before the Topeka City Council and be recognized for their work by Mayor Wolgast. Thank you to the Mayor.

Dr. Farley said a search committee is now formed and working to fill the upcoming vacancy for the Dean of the Law School with the first meeting being next week. The position is being advertised nationally and the committee's intent is to have a recommendation to the Board at the February meeting.

Dr. Farley said this Saturday is family day. There will be activities for families, students and children and he will announce the "family of the year" at half-time.

President Farley indicated the job fair was last week on campus and was successful. There was a second job fair led by Jim Martin for folks who are looking for jobs in the finance industry.

Dr. Farley said Vice President for Student Life Dr. Eric Grospitch led an event on Healthy Masculinity that was the start of an ongoing conversation on campus.

President Farley reported the Ichabod Success Institute was hosted on campus last summer. The 2016 Success Institute had 20 enrollees and 19 stayed enrolled in the fall. In 2017 there were 17 participants and all enrolled for the fall.

Dr. Farley said on the North side of White Concert Hall is the new Rita Blitt Gallery which will be opened at an event on Friday, November 3.

President Farley said there were two mayoral fora on campus this fall, one on September 26 and the other on October 18 in hopes of getting students involved.

Dr. Farley said Washburn has met most of the goals of the Vision 2022, and we are now starting the process to develop a new strategic plan. He said we will be getting something out to the campus for review and comment and hope to bring it to the Board in February.

Dr. Farley answered a question regarding the process for the Law School Dean position providing the detailed schedule for the committee work. He said Marla Lukert, Kansas Supreme Court Justice, and Alex Glashausser will co-chair the search committee. External folks, including Tom Adrian, Lucky Fries and Lyn Mcqueary, will serve on the committee as well as five law school faculty.

There was a question to Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin regarding telecommunications. Mr. Martin advised there will be a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

There was a question about the Frank Agency. Dr. Farley advised we cannot discuss enrollment yet but will at next meeting. Several board members felt it would be helpful to have someone from The Frank Agency present.

There was a question about the financial analysis of the indoor practice facility. Dr. Farley said Washburn has received new plans for the project and we are currently undertaking the financial analysis. He said we should be able to have information for the next board meeting and will have the architect available.

C. Committee Report(s)

1. Audit Committee

Audit Committee Chairperson Brent Boles said the committee met before this meeting and there is nothing to report at this time.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

It was moved by Regent Hoferer and seconded by Regent Boles to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed. As approved by action of the Board:

- 1. Liquidated Claims Approval – July 2017**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – August 2017**
- 3. Faculty/Staff Personnel Actions**

Add Interim Co-Chairs of the Music Department effective August 1, 2017 to Catherine Hunt, Professor/Director of Music Education, at an annual .5FTE salary of \$34,607 and Craig Treinen, Assistant Professor/Director of Jazz Studies, at an annual 1.0FTE salary of \$54,059; increase from .75 to 1.0FTE Kelly Huff, Lecturer of Music at an annual salary of \$40,000; hire Todd Staerckel for one semester effective September 1, 2017; hire Andrea Clifton as WeKAN Project Support Specialist effective September 22, 2017; and, hire Jody Toerber-Clark as WeKAN Project Director effective September 22, 2017.

B. Action Items

1. Renewal of Insurance Policies

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item, saying it is for the various liability insurance coverages for the institution. There is an overall reduction in premium of \$24,000, which is the second year in a row of total premium reduction. One of the biggest reductions is in worker's compensation, where the ratio is .64, the best ever ration achieved by Washburn. One other policy to be added later would be cybersecurity insurance. It was moved by Regent Sneed and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the purchase of the insurance policies. Motion passed.

2. Health Plan Renewal

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin has been on the health benefits committee for several years and said it is always difficult to figure out how to get best plan for our money. He said this is the most expensive benefit Washburn offers. The plan is self-funded. Information received from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) indicated rates would increase about 14%. Additionally, the cost of our stoploss coverage would also increase, which is happening across the state. Premiums in the base plan (90% of employees are in this plan) will have a 16% increase. The upper tiers will pay more than 16%, and lower tiers will pay less. In the past, no employee paid a premium for employee only insurance. Now the top three tiers will pay a \$50 a month premium. Deductibles will increase by \$500. Co-pays will increase for both regular and specialty doctors by \$5. By changing the way premiums are collected – going online – this will result in no premiums in December. The new plan also eliminates the \$300 lab/x-ray rider. The Benefits Committee recommends this plan be approved.

He said we are looking at 2019 to address issues for an employee's spouse who qualifies for medicare or at their employment as most others in Topeka address this.

In response to a question about dental insurance, Mr. Martin advised that coverage is also offered by BCBSKS, but we are looking to bid that coverage separately next year.

It was moved by Regent Sneed and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the renewal of the health insurance plan. Motion passed.

3. Vision Insurance

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item. He reported employees have requested that Washburn consider offering a vision insurance plan and the committee selected EyeMed for that coverage. This is new coverage not offered before. They have sufficient locations in the area and there is no cost to the institution. The premium is paid entirely by the employees and premium locked in for four years.

It was moved by Regent Parks and seconded by Regent Boles to approve EyeMed as Washburn's vision insurance provider. Motion passed.

4. Flexible Spending Account Plan, Section 125 Administration Renewal

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item. He said our current provider won the bid, reduced their cost by 33% and locked it in for four years.

It was moved by Regent Parks and seconded by Regent Sourk to approve the renewal of ASIFlex as the University's Flexible Spending Account Plan administrator. Motion passed.

5. Employee Assistance Program

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item. He said the current employee assistance program is rarely used by our workforce but an increased need exists. New Directions Behavioral Health offered a reasonably priced, full service package. They offer from a pool a counselor to be on campus if needed for a tragic event. Their cost is \$1.49 per employee per month, with the rate being locked in for four years.

It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Boles to approve New Directions Behavioral Health as the new Employee Assistance Program provider. Motion passed.

6. Employee and Dependent Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Short-Term Disability and/or Long-Term Disability Insurance and Benefits Administration System

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin said the best package was from Principal Group from Iowa. Their rates were very good and locked in for three years. They offer sufficient savings that will allow us to automate enrollment and claims and speed up enrollment and claim management. Mr. Martin said we offer group life for all of our employees. Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Short-term and Long-term disability are optional coverages paid for by the employees who elect to utilize the coverage.

In response to a question, Director of Human Resources Teresa Lee said we have about 20% participation in disability insurance.

It was moved by Regent Boles and seconded by Regent Beck to approve Principal Group as the provider for basic and optional life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance, optional life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance, Short-term and Long-term disability insurance and online plan administration. Motion passed.

7. Brocade Network Switching Equipment

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item, saying Washburn has an aging computer network. This would upgrade the hard-wired system running through campus, and is through an existing state contact.

It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Sourk to approve the contract with Yellow Dog Networks for Brocade Switches, accessories and licenses. Motion passed.

8. Addendum to 9-30-16 KanTRAIN Contract for Data Access for Research with Kansas Board of Regents

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item. He said that one year ago this Board approved a contract with the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) for collecting data. This agreement will expand the collection of data to include information from Butler County and JCCC and then be shared with them. The contract is funded entirely by grant.

It was moved by Regent Parks and seconded by Regent Boles to approve the contract with the Kansas Board of Regents. Motion passed.

9. Softball Field Improvements C18014

Item pulled because all bids were over budget.

10. Forensic Science Program Equipment Purchase of Waters High Performance Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometer (HPLC-MS)

Vice President for Academic Affairs JuliAnn Mazachek presented the item. She said Washburn's partnership with the KBI brought hi-tech equipment and opportunities for our students. One way to keep this partnership special is to acquire equipment similar to that being used by the KBI. Holly O'Neil, assistant professor of forensic chemical science, obtained a \$35,000 grant from the manufacturer to reduce the cost.

It was moved by Regent Sneed and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the contract with Waters Corporation to purchase the equipment. Motion passed.

11. EAB Student Success Collaborative – Campus and Mobile Program

Vice President for Academic Affairs JuliAnn Mazachek said Washburn is working on retaining students to continue to completion and graduation. The proposed system will add resources to help us identify at risk students in a timely manner, setting appointments with staff and faculty to track interactions, and provide a mobile app to communicate more easily with students through customized messages. It will also provide a dashboard to give us more information at our fingertips. Using funds from Student Success efforts redirected to this project.

In response to question about effectiveness of the system, Dr. Mazachek advised that EAB is currently working with 450 other universities with good success. The company says will the system increase retention by 3%. If true, that would be a 500% return on our investment. This platform will take us from just tracking from freshman to sophomore, to now tracking the remaining additional years of a student's experience at Washburn.

It was moved by Regent Parks and seconded by Regent Hoferer to approve a contract with EAB for this service. Motion passed.

C. Information Item(s)

1. Report of Purchases between \$25,001 and \$50,000

2. Rural Law Initiatives

Mr. Shawn Leisinger, Director for Centers for Excellence and Externship in the School of Law said this is a joint program with KSU. Three speakers from our School of Law speak at KSU in the fall.

3. WU Moves Program

Roy Wohl, professor in the Kinesiology Department, reported on the program. He said there are four restraints in getting help for chronic ailments:
1) Financial; 2) access to resources; 3) multiple conditions; and 4) support systems lessen.

Regent Sneed thanked the University for upgrading the communication systems in the Kansas Room.

Regent McGivern confirmed follow up contacts with The Frank Agency and the architects for the next Board meeting.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents