

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
February 6, 2025

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Dietrick called the meeting to order at 2:00 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 Jeffrey
Regent Nave
Regent Padilla
Regent Romero
Regent Sourk

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Dietrick welcomed everyone and shared the wonderful article on Washburn University in the January issue of the Trusteeship magazine. The article covered the study Washburn did with Dr. Friga in shaping Washburn's strategic plan.

B. President's Report

President Mazachek shared it is an exciting day as Washburn celebrates its 160th birthday along with a very special announcement immediately following the Board meeting.

Dr. Mazachek noted the recent TK Business magazine featured Washburn University. It was an outstanding cover photo and article that highlighted all the amazing things happening at Washburn.

President Mazachek shared the men's basketball team is undefeated and nationally ranked #1 for the third consecutive week. She encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to attend a game.

Dr. Mazachek introduced James Barraclough, Director of Career Engagement.

1. Career Engagement Presentation – James Barraclough

Mr. Barraclough provided information on Handshake; the career engagement platform utilized to engage all students as well as potential employers. The platform provides information for students regarding career fairs, internships, and posting of current jobs. Handshake is available for students at Washburn University and Washburn Tech.

Mr. Barraclough noted Washburn collaborates with the Greater Topeka Partnership (GTP) in sharing the message to employers to hire local talent. GTP has been a great partner with Washburn University in promoting our graduates.

Mr. Barraclough shared Career Engagement is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Data collected by NACE for the Class of 2023 reported a 69% knowledge rate and a 97% positive outcome rate for Washburn University.

Dr. Mazachek introduced Tonya Ricklefs, President of Faculty Senate.

2. Faculty Senate Report – Tonya Ricklefs

Professor Tonya Ricklefs shared the faculty appreciated the support of the Board working together on policy issues last semester including the bylaws and the termination process.

Professor Ricklefs relayed the thoughts and concerns faculty have with changes in the education world. Historically, Washburn has valued accessibility and inclusivity. Candidates applying at Washburn say it is a welcoming environment. Washburn is a community proud of their roots. The faculty want to continue to work together with the Board to meet current challenges and stay true to Washburn.

IV. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

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

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the December 7, 2024 meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – November 2024**
- 3. Liquidated Claims Approval – December 2024**
- 4. Recital Hall Multimedia Equipment Ratification**

B. Action Items

1. Academic Sabbaticals 2025-2026

Provost John Fritch presented this item and noted that Sabbaticals are important to faculty. It gives them the opportunity to retool and build knowledge to use in the classroom which provides better learning outcomes for the students.

The Office of Academic Affairs and the Academic Sabbatical committee review sabbatical proposals yearly. The committee makes recommendations based on the quality of the projects as reflected in the individual proposals. The President recommends the faculty listed on the agenda item be approved for academic sabbatical.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Padilla to approve academic sabbaticals. Motion passed.

2. Eminentes Universitatis

Vice President Luther Lee noted Washburn University awards the Eminentes Universitatis designation to long-term employees who are employed as a technical instructor, staff or equivalent for ten years or more, retire in good standing and the service performed has been deemed exceptional. The University is excited to present this designation to two employees.

Linda Matthews worked at Washburn for 35 years. Linda began working at Washburn in 1978 in Financial Aid. After ten years, she left but returned in 2000 to provide administrative support to University Mail and Printing Services (UMAPS). She has served as the point of contact in UMAPS for all incoming projects. Ms. Matthews assisted with many university events including Move-In Day, Late Night Breakfast for students, and Career and Internship Expo. Ms. Matthews will retire February 28, 2025.

Kathryn Stroebele began working for Kaw Area Technical School in 1993. She continued her role when it later became part of Washburn Institute of Technology. Ms. Stroebele served in various roles including Associate Director of Student Services, Associate Dean of Student Services, and Director, Student Transitions. She was dedicated to meeting students where they were and going above and

beyond to support their growth and development. Ms. Stroebele retired in July 2023.

The President recommends the Board of Regents bestow the status of Eminentes Universitatis to Linda Matthews and Kathryn Stroebele.

Motion by Regent Buhler and seconded by Regent Nave to bestow the status of Eminentes Universitatis. Motion passed.

3. Washburn Institute of Technology AAS in Para Education

Provost John Fritch presented this item. Washburn Tech has an exciting opportunity to expand its Associate of Applied Science offering to include an AAS in Para Education in coordination with Topeka Public Schools. This program will provide high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to earn an AAS in Para Education while still in high school. To address the teaching shortage, students would be able to immediately work as a para educator upon graduation. The program will also create a pathway for students to transfer 60 plus credit hours to the University to apply towards the completion of a baccalaureate degree in education. Dr. Fritch thanked his staff for their hard work on this program.

Motion by Regent Jeffrey and seconded by Regent Fisher to approve the addition of the Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Para Education. Motion passed.

4. Washburn Tech Manufacturing Institute – Design Services

Vice President Luther Lee noted at the December Board meeting; the Board approved the purchase of property at 2240 NW Tyler Street in North Topeka. The current plan is to develop approximately half of the space for the Manufacturing Training Center and Cosmetology programs with completion in Fall 2026. The remaining space will be used for university storage.

Mr. Lee shared the university issued an RFP for Design Services. Proposals were received from five design firms. Washburn recommends HTK Architects be awarded the contract for this project.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Padilla to approve the selection of HTK Architects for design services for the Washburn Tech Manufacturing Institute. Motion passed.

5. Washburn Tech Manufacturing Institute – Construction Manager at Risk

Vice President Luther Lee presented the item and noted it has the same background and timeline as the previous agenda item. Washburn issued an RFP for Construction Management of the project. Proposals were received from seven

firms. They were evaluated on team members, their experience on similar projects, their ability to meet the schedule, and the cost of their services.

Washburn recommends MCP Build of Topeka to be awarded the construction management at risk contract for this project.

Motion by Regent Nave and seconded by Regent Dicus to approve MCP Build as the construction manager for the Washburn Tech Manufacturing Institute. Motion passed.

6. Broadcast Agreement with Walz Tetrick

Lori Hutchinson, Executive Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing, presented this item. Washburn is requesting approval for an expenditure to Walz Tetrick, an ad agency the University utilizes in Kansas City. The agency has created an advertising package that's designed to raise brand awareness for Washburn in Kansas City. It is not anticipated to have an immediate enrollment impact but would lay the groundwork for the strategic enrollment recruiting efforts that follow.

Executive Director Hutchinson noted the largest investment in this package is this request which buys commercial flights on traditional broadcast television. Walz Tetrick guarantees the tv ratings to deliver 95% of the goal. The entire campaign will run from February 27 through June 13, but the broadcast flights will air for two weeks surrounding March Madness. Washburn recommends the Board approve this expenditure to Walz Tetrick Advertising.

Motion by Regent Buhler and seconded by Regent Sourk to approve Walz Tetrick purchasing airtime for radio and television advertising in the Kansas City area. Motion passed.

7. Resolution Authorizing the Offering for Sale of Revenue Bonds

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item on the sale of bonds and introduced Mitch Walter, Attorney with Gilmore & Bell, and Michael Newman with Hilltop Securities Inc to provide more information.

Mr. Walter shared in March 2024; the Board approved a resolution declaring an intent to issue revenue bonds for the Advisors Excel Hall. This would allow the university the ability to reimburse any project expenditures from proceeds of bonds if necessary. Today is the next step for Washburn in issuing a notice of intent to be published. There are two series of bonds, one for Advisors Excel and the other to refinance for interest cost savings.

Mr. Walter introduced Michael Newman with Hilltop Securities. Mr. Newman shared the plan for selling the bonds, anticipating \$15 million for the hall and \$7.9

million for refinancing to enhance savings and reduce costs. The timing of selling the bonds will allow Washburn to take advantage of the declining interest rates and tax exemptions. Washburn has an A1 credit rating. The reason for refinancing now is because of the many renovations taking place on campus.

Motion by Regent Buhler and seconded by Regent Jeffrey to ratify the execution of the bond purchase agreement, establish the terms and details of the bonds and authorize the University administration to do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out the transaction contemplated by the Bond Resolution. Motion passed.

8. Washburn University Policies, Regulations, and Procedures Manual – Section R.

Vice President Luther Lee shared the proposed changes to Section R of the Washburn University Policies, Regulations and Procedures Manual. He thanked the Board work group of Regent Dietrick, Regent Sourk, and Regent Dicus as well as members of his staff. The feedback was helpful and much appreciated.

Mr. Lee noted the intent was to review and propose changes to the current policy to ensure the university is strategic and efficient in its operations and in line with market conditions. The last major review and update was in 2005. Reasons for the review included rising costs of goods and services and reducing the number of general basic operating items that need pre-approval by the Board. Raising the threshold would result in 30% fewer items needing approval, reducing the need to come back to the Board for multiples pieces.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Nave to approve the proposed changes to Section R of the Board policies. Motion passed.

Regent Sourk made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a new action item to approve the naming of the School of Business and the School of Nursing. The motion was seconded by Regent Buhler. Motion passed.

President Mazachek explained the Board approves the naming of programs and campus spaces which is one of the highest honors Washburn can bestow. This process is reserved to recognize individuals who make exceptional contributions to the University. Today we will receive an amazing gift from Greg and Ronda Brenneman.

President Mazachek requests the Board approve naming the School of Business as the Gregory and Ronda Brenneman School of Business and the naming of the School of Nursing as Harmony Hines School of Nursing.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the naming of the School of Business as the “Gregory D. and Ronda K. Brenneman School of Business” and the School of Nursing as the “Harmony J. Hines School of Nursing”. Motion passed.

V. Next Meeting Date

A. Board of Regents Meeting – March 13, 2025

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents