

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
October 31, 2018

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Hoferer 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, Mayor De La Isla, Mr. Hoferer, Mr. Klausman, Mr. McGivern, Mrs. Parks, Mr. Sneed and Mrs. Van Etten. Regent Sourk advised in advance she would not be present.

III. Approval of Minutes of the September 26, 2018 meeting

It was moved by Regent Sneed and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the Minutes of the September 26, 2018 meeting. Motion passed.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Board Chair Paul Hoferer congratulated President and Mrs. Farley on the positive article in The Topeka Capital Journal in having students to their home for discussion.

Mr. Hoferer also reminded Regents about the Board workshop about the strategic plan on Saturday morning, November 10.

B. President's Report

President Farley introduced Dr. Carla Pratt, new Dean of the Law School. Dean Pratt started in July with a whirlwind schedule to meet alumni around the country. Prior to joining Washburn Law, she served as Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, and the Nancy J. LaMont Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law at Penn State's Dickinson School of Law.

Dr. Farley reported the U.S. Department of Education awarded Washburn a Title III grant totaling \$1.646 million dollars over the next five years to improve retention by bolstering support services. This will be funding to expand those programs.

President Farley said Washburn Institute of Technology has received \$349 thousand in grant funding from the Department of Agriculture to fund a collaboration with 19 high schools in rural districts across the state. This enhances the Hansen Grant for

distance learning for technical education. He said this is a phenomenal program through the Washburn Tech campus and reminded the Board of a presentation a year or two ago about the online Tech education program.

Dr. Farley reported that Washburn Leadership Institute students received two second place finishes at the International Leadership Association Conference Case Study Competition held in West Palm Beach, Florida this week.

President Farley said the Washburn Women's Venture Partners (WWVP) has awarded over \$300 thousand in grants across campus. Grants include to student organizations, the lecture series (iRead), and faculty research and teaching.

Dr. Farley reported that the Kansas Association of Broadcasters has awarded KTWU a First Place honor for the television program Washburn University Holiday Vespers.

President Farley gave an update on the MIAA, stating a number of things that have occurred regarding membership in the conference. A couple of institutions have decided to leave to join another conference. SW Baptist gave two years notice last year, and Lindenwood gave short notice that they are leaving next year and joining the same conference. There may be a difference in cost for Lindenwood. Added were two non-football playing conferences, Kansas Newman and Rogers State in Bartlesville, OK. Still looking for two other non-football playing members to join.

Dr. Farley said the Greater Topeka Partnership group went on an intercity visit to Chattanooga, TN to learn what they have done to revitalize their city. Board members Mr. Klausman and Mayor De La Isla, as well as President Farley and Dr. Mazachek also attended. There were good recruitment materials to view.

President Farley reported this fall's day of Transformational Experience poster session will be held on Friday, November 16 from Noon – 2:00 p.m. in the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

It was moved by Regent De La Isla and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

As approved by action of the Board:

- 1. Liquidated Claims Approval – September 2018**
- 2. Posthumous Degree – Bechtold**

Award of posthumous Post-Graduate Certificate to Debra Bechtold; and

3. Faculty/Staff Personnel Actions

New vacant positions in the Center for Student Success and Retention/Title III, effective November 1, 2018: Title III Project Director at an annual salary of \$50,000; three Student Success Coach positions at annual salaries of \$39,000 each; and Math Lab Coordinator-Math Department at an annual salary of \$50,000.

B. Action Items

1. Washburn Tech HIIST Diesel Grant – Mobile Column Lift System

Vice President for Academic Affairs JuliAnn Mazachek presented the item. She said Washburn Tech received a grant for \$73,000 from the Kansas Department of Commerce that was a dollar-for-dollar match. The match was met through contributions by community members. Equipment was purchased from SnapOn Tools, a Washburn Tech partner.

In response to a question about writing the grant, Washburn Tech Dean Clark Coco responded that Dr. Clayton Tatro, Associate Dean of Instruction, normally heads the grant writing at Tech. Dr. Mazachek said the Department of Commerce likes Tech because Washburn Tech delivers positive outcomes with their work.

It was moved by Regent Parks and seconded by Regent Van Etten to approve the purchase of the Mobile Column Lift System. Motion passed.

2. Desire2Learn Brightspace LMS

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item, saying that the D2L is a platform used by faculty to run online programs. The agreement is for 5½ years and the price is locked in for 5½ years. In response to a question, Mr. Martin stated the Board is approving the contract but we will come back for approval for payment each year.

In response to a question about what students get, Mr. Martin said students get immediate feedback on grades, and 24/7 access to videos, notes, and materials to help them.

In response to a question about allowing expansion for future classes online, Mr. Martin responded that yes, we can expand online offerings with this and we could not do online courses without this tool.

It was moved by Regent Sneed and seconded by Regent De La Isla to approve the contract with D2L. Motion was approved.

3. Resolution for Authorization of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool Transactions

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item. He reported this is the investment tool to park money until more permanent investments are set up. The Board has approved several of these changes recently with changes in employment of folks. This item is to get Mr. Chris Kuwitzky, the new Controller, to be authorized as signatory on the account.

It was moved by Regent Parks and seconded by Regent McGivern to approve the item. Motion passed.

4. Faculty/Staff One-Time Stipend

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item, saying the 2019 budget included a 1.5% pay increase. He said given the tuition and enrollment shortfall, the administration is now recommending a one-time stipend for any employee who has been with Washburn six months or longer. He said salaries are not where we want them to be but, given the situation, this is most prudent. The stipend would be \$500 gross.

In response to a question about if salaries are at market, Mr. Martin responded that for faculty we are not at midpoint, but 13% away. He said staff and administration also has a gap, but it is not as wide.

In response to a question about keeping good employees, Mr. Martin said we have looked at other ways to increase efficiencies, so we have money to use for salaries. He said academic affairs is looking at benchmarks as well as looking at openings if they are necessary to be filled as well as starting new programs that are growing and looking at other such opportunities.

It was moved by Regent De La Isla and seconded by Regent Sneed to approve the stipend. Motion passed.

5. Westar Energy Direct Renewable/Green Energy Tariff Agreement

Regent De La Isla stepped out of the meeting due to a conflict of interest in this matter.

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin said faculty and students have come forward asking Washburn to consider going green or more green. Westar approached Washburn about a new windfarm being built in Nemaha County. Mr. Martin said the agreement will remove the fuel charge that averages about \$.02 per KW hour and replace it with a flat charge of \$.018 for the full term of the contract. Washburn will get Four Megawatts of electricity, which is about 80% of our total usage. This includes Washburn Tech and Cosmetology. The agreement also allows us to sell hours we don't use, or we can bank them to purchase extra hours in hot summer months. Savings on the contract are estimated at \$70,000 - \$100,000 per year once the

farm is in place, which should be in about two years. The agreement is for 20 years.

In response to a question about how much usage the University of Kansas (KU) and Kansas State University (KSU) would be buying, Mr. Martin answered that KU probably is in the 20s for Megawatts and KSU in the teens.

In response to a question about this in relation to the energy savings a few years ago, Mr. Martin explained that the previous work addressed the actual demand for electricity on our campus. If we hadn't done that, we would have needed about five or six Megawatts.

In response to a question about the length of the agreement, Mr. Martin answered that the risk is in a new process could come along that could produce wind power cheaper than .018.

In response to a question about Pittsburg State University (PSU) having their own turbine, Mr. Martin responded that we would rather have a part of a field as opposed to a single turbine because it reduces issues about reliability.

It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the wind energy agreement with Westar. Motion passed.

6. Softball Complex Field Improvements Phase 2 – Project #C19009

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin presented the item, reporting the project is for new softball dugouts. This is for a game diamond and not a practice diamond. The netting and backstop were Phase I. Mr. Martin apologized for the late notice, saying bids came in higher than expected, but Athletics was able to obtain additional funds to pay for the project.

It was moved by Regent Sneed and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the contract for the softball field improvements. Motion passed.

Additional item of information – Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Jim Martin stated that in response to question from the last Board meeting about expenditures over \$50,000. He said in the past two years, 68 projects over \$50,000 were approved by Board, approximately five per meeting. If the approval limit were upped to \$100,000, it would have reduced the number of items to about 37 items, changing it from about five items per meeting to three per meeting. Presenting items at the meeting is a good way for the Board to know what is going on. President Farley said the administration will look to propose policy language to address this at the next meeting.

C. Information Item(s)

1. School of Nursing RENEW Grant Presentation

Vice President for Academic Affairs JuliAnn Mazachek, briefly addressed an earlier question about grants for Washburn Tech to note that Deans are constantly looking for grant opportunities to help their schools and our programs.

She then introduced Dr. Monica Scheibmeir, Dean of the School of Nursing, noting that Dean Scheibmeir is retiring soon, and stating the presentation will show how their partnerships makes a difference - preparing RNs to work in teams to address issues in rural area health care. Dean Scheibmeir made a presentation.

VI. Executive Session

At 5:00 p.m., it was moved by Regent McGivern and seconded by Regent Parks that the regular session of the meeting be recessed and the Board go into executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel who are non-elected and that the regular session shall resume at 5:20 p.m. in the same room. Motion passed.

At 5:20 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session at which time a motion was made by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Van Etten to go back into executive session to continue discussion of matters relating to personnel who are non-elected and that the regular session shall resume at 5:35 p.m. Motion passed.

At 5:35 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session, at which time a motion was made by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Hoferer to go back into executive session to continue discussion of matters relating to personnel who are non-elected and that the regular session shall resume at 5:40 p.m. Motion passed.

At 5:40 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session.

It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Sneed to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The Board meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents