

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
December 5, 2019

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Hoferer called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were: Mr. Beck, Ms. Buhler, Mr. Hoferer, Mr. Klausman (by phone), Mr. McGivern, Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Sourk and Mrs. Van Etten. Regent De La Isla was not present.

III. Approval of Minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Parks to approve the Minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting. Motion passed.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

B. President's Report

President Farley said this is a great time of year with many things happening on campus, and we will be in commencement mode in a week.

Dr. Farley reported on the Indoor Athletic Facility. He said we believe they will have all of the girders up for the football field before holiday break and then will go back and do the girders over the track.

President Farley introduced Gary Bayens as the new Dean of Washburn Tech.

Dr. Farley introduced Eric Showalter, who has been managing the Recycled Rides program, who said they completed their 28th vehicle earlier this week. The National Auto Body Association Recycled Rides program was present to learn more about our success. He said they partner with United Way to locate potential donees and students review the applications. This vehicle was for a single mother with two children and was a very moving experience.

President Farley said that tomorrow from 3:00-5:00 p.m. the annual holiday party for faculty and staff will be held in Washburn A & B.

Dr. Farley mentioned Vespers is this Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in White Concert Hall. He said this is a great program and has been for decades.

President Farley reported events being held in Lee Arena -- next Thursday is Washburn Tech commencement and next Friday Washburn University commencement ceremonies. Everyone is invited to attend.

Dr. Farley said Toys for Tots is currently happening on campus.

President Farley said this morning he had the honor to appear before the Shawnee County Legislative Delegation. He told them about the good things happening on our campus and about some things we would like help with in the upcoming session.

Dr. Farley reported the Student Recreation and Wellness Center will have dogs available to pet by students to help them deal with stress during finals.

V. New Business

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

As approved by action of the Board:

A. Consent Agenda

1. Liquidated Claims Approval – October 2019

2. Faculty/Staff Personnel Actions

Recruit for new vacant Technical Instructor, Virtual Welding-Lawrence Gardner High School effective January 1, 2020 at an annual salary of \$52,000;

3. Academic Sabbaticals 2020-2021

Academic Sabbaticals granted as follows: Lori Edwards, School of Nursing for Fall 2020; Ian Smith, College of Arts & Sciences, Fall 2020; Jericho Hockett, College of Arts & Sciences, Fall 2020 or Spring 2021; Tonya Kowalski, School of Law, Fall 2020 & spring 2021; Norma Juma, School of Business, Spring 2021; Park Lockwood, College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2021; Sharon Sullivan, College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2021; Izzy Wasserstein, College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2021; and,

4. Graphics Technology Program Revision

Changes to the Graphics Technology Program as outlined in the agenda item.

B. Action Items

1. Virtual Reality Hardware and Software for Washburn Tech Virtual College

Vice President for Academic Affairs Juli Mazachek presented the item. Washburn Tech received two grants – one from the Dane Hanson Foundation and one from AT&T – to purchase software and hardware to deliver online technical education. This item is for purchase of equipment for use in schools in Western Kansas so they are able to receive the online technical education programs. The schools that would receive the equipment are in the territory served by the Hanson Foundation.

In response to a question about if Washburn Tech has seen any impact on enrollment, Dr. Mazachek stated that there has been an increase, due in part to this program, which is in its second year. It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent McGivern to approve the purchase of the equipment. Motion passed.

2. Memorial Union 1st Floor A & B Rooms Audio Visual Upgrade Project #900200

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Chris Kuwitzky presented the item. The Board previously approved projects for sound in Washburn A & B rooms. This project will improve the room lighting to LED lighting for events held in the rooms. Three entities picked up packets but only one bid on the item. The other two said they could handle the project within the timeline given.

In response to a question if the bid amount is a reasonable price given there was only one bidder, Mr. Kuwitzky said some research was done to determine if it was within a reasonable range, which it was. Further, Washburn is familiar with the contractor and prior work was been of good quality.

In response to a question as to what income we get from the room(s), Vice President Kuwitzky called on Janel Rutherford, who answered that Washburn charges up to \$1,000/day but most events are community service events which do not generate much rental income.

In response to a question about who in the community has a larger meeting space, Rutherford answered the only two of which she was aware were the Ramada Inn and Capital Plaza. It was moved by Regent McGivern and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the purchase of the equipment. Motion passed.

3. Ratification of KTWU Digital Audio Console Bundle

Vice President for Academic Affairs JuliAnn Mazachek presented the item. The digital audio console is a key component to help KTWU with their broadcasting. Their equipment failed in October unexpectedly and KTWU moved quickly to find replacement equipment. Mr. Kuwitzky contacted the Board chair for initial approval before the purchase under the circumstances and we now seek ratification. It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Sourk to ratify the purchase of the digital audio console. Motion passed.

4. New Law School Building

President Farley presented the agenda item. Dr. Farley stated that Washburn began looking at a new law school back in 2010 and brought forward a plan for financing and construction of a new law school at the corner of Washburn Avenue and 21st Street. The project cost at that time was estimated at \$40 million. Sources for those costs were identified as \$20 million from private fundraising and \$20 million from the University. The Board approved the plan at that time. That began what was largest fundraising for a project in Washburn history. To date, Washburn has collected just over \$10 million in private fundraising, which is most ever raised for a single project.

Since 2012, changes occurred in the world of higher education and particularly in law education. The percentage of applications dropped in the aftermath of the recession. It is now clear that the planned student capacity in the original plans – 450 students – will not be achieved; however, the need for the new law school has not changed.

The administration then looked to adjust the budget and plan to meet or exceed the level of education moving forward. Washburn now believes the appropriate student capacity will be more in the range of 300-325 students. Additionally, technology has changed the way education is delivered, primarily in the need of space for the library because it is now mostly digital, so the need for book storage is less. There are options to expand the building from its revised plan, if necessary in the future.

The administration now proposes to keep in place the University's commitment to give \$20 million, in reserves. Folks from the law school, administration and facilities met with the architects about re-sizing and re-designing the building. The architects were advised that an all-in cost estimate was necessary. Dr. Farley stated the amount of the revised estimate is \$33 million, and for that amount of money Washburn can build a law school that will meet the needs of its students and faculty moving forward.

President Farley then introduced Dean Carla Pratt, who was present by phone. Dean Pratt is very excited about the potential of the project. She stated the project will give them a lot of the resources they do not have now, such as integrated technology in classrooms to capture lectures, and to deliver online lectures to our third year anywhere program. The technology upgrades will allow to the law school to have synchronous programming and be a leader in country in this regard.

Dr. Farley then invited Marshall Meek, president of the Washburn University Foundation, to discuss raising the additional \$3 million needed from private fundraising. Mr. Meek is confident the Foundation can raise the additional \$3 million. He stated many projects like this have persons who wait until the end to contribute, and until they see the end of the tunnel and approval, they hesitate to donate. Mr. Meek believes the revised budget and project, if approved by the Board, will be well received by donors, and private fundraising will get across the finish line, just as it happened for the indoor practice facility once the final plans were in place.

President Farley asked the Board to approve the agenda item which sets the new project budget, and to authorize the architect to proceed through schematic design for construction of a new law school at Washburn Avenue and 21st Street. Once the schematic design is completed, the administration would then come back for further authorizations.

In response to a question about the architect's fees, Dr. Farley said the fee is based on 7.5% of the project costs. Regent McGivern said that an architect fee at 7.5% of the project cost is a deal.

In response to a question about completion date, President Farley said that other decisions will need to be addressed before an accurate estimate of the completion date can be determined.

In response to a question about the current balance of University reserves and can the reserves provide the planned expenditures for the law school, Dr Farley said that Washburn will have more than \$10 million in reserves by the end of the current fiscal year and the remaining \$10 million provided by the University will be through bond funding.

It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the new budget amount for the new law school project at Washburn Avenue and 21st Street and authority for the architect to begin schematic design. Motion passed 7-1 with Regent Sourk voting no. Regent Sourk noted that she has no problems with the project with the revised budget, but she would want to see more information about the University reserves before she could support the project moving forward.

VI. Executive Session

Board Chair Hoferer announced that there was no need for the Executive Session.

It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Van Etten to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

/s/

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents