

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
October 28, 2021

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Beck called the meeting to order at 4:16 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. Dietrick, Mr. Hulse, Mr. Padilla (via Zoom protocol), Mrs. Parks, Mr. Schmidt and Mrs. Sourk. Mr. Klausman was absent.

III. Approval of Minutes of the September 16, 2021 meeting

Board chair Beck asked if there were changes to the September 16 minutes and no changes were offered. It was moved by Regent Buhler and seconded by Regent Parks to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021 meeting. Motion passed.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chairperson Beck welcomed the two new regents, Allen Schmidt and John Dietrick, to the Board. Mr. Beck mentioned that he was impressed with their participation at the new board member orientation.

Chairperson Beck then mentioned that he is auditing just one three credit hour class, but is reminded about how hard it is to be a college student. Mr. Beck's experience as a student strengthens his admiration for full-time students who are also working, involved in activities, or raising a family while also pursuing their degree. Chairperson Beck noted that sometimes we need a reminder of just how difficult it is for a student.

Mr. Beck noted the successes of the various athletic teams and urged everyone to come out and be involved in this weekend's homecoming activities.

Chairperson Beck then concluded his comments by announcing that Gahnstrom Field was named National Fastpitch Coaches Association 2021 Division II Field of the Year.

B. President's Report

President Farley said this week is Homecoming week, a tradition for institutions across the country for decades. Experiences this week will create memories for students and hopefully will cause them to want to return to campus for years. There are many

participation opportunities for students. Monday night was a dance. There was also a talent competition. Tonight is “Yell like Hell” which is a unique type of pep rally. There is a top hat competition for decorated top hats. And a competition for office and residential hall decorating occurred, as well as floats for the parade.

Dr. Farley also said Alumni After Hours will be tomorrow afternoon followed by the soccer game.

Saturday morning is the pancake feed followed by the parade. The football game is at 1:00 p.m. and winners of the Top Bod competition for students will be announced at halftime.

Dr. Farley reported the local health department incident report related to COVID is up a bit today. Dr. Grospitch was invited to provide an update to the Board on the COVID situation. Dr. Grospitch stated that Washburn is receiving reports of about five cases each week. Last week, the baseball team was a cluster, which is at least five positive tests from the same group or event, but most players were fully vaccinated and all have recovered. Student Health has administered over 1,000 vaccines on campus since last spring.

Registration for spring classes has started.

President Farley said October 19 was the final round of the pitch competition where students from Washburn and Washburn Tech give an elevator speech in support of a product in an attempt to convince judges to select their idea for funding. Go Topeka has given \$25,000 for awards to the winners. This year’s winner was Freshman Peyton Price for her project for a mask guard microphone headset company.

Dr. Farley reported Winter commencement will be held in Lee Arena in December. More information will be provided to the Board about their involvement at the ceremony.

Dr. Farley said the Wind Ensemble has been invited to the Band Directors National Association Southwestern Division Conference in spring of 2022. It was explained to Dr. Farley as being the equivalent to getting to the Sweet Sixteen in basketball. For the Southwest region, we are one of only six groups selected.

Dr. Farley invited Michelle Godinet to stand up and welcomed her as the new Equal Opportunity Director replacing Pam Foster. She previously was the civil rights officer and ADA coordinator for Department of Corrections.

C. Committee Report(s)

1. Audit Committee

Regent Parks, committee chairperson, reported that the committee met this afternoon to receive results of the audit by the outside auditors from Rubin Brown and voted to recommend the Board accept the report. Motion by Regent Parks and second by Regent Dietrick to accept the audit report. Motion passed.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

After no one asking for any item to be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion, it was moved by Regent Hulse and seconded by Regent Schmidt to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

As approved by action of the Board:

1. Liquidated Claims Approval – August 2021

2. Personnel

a. Faculty/Staff Personnel Actions

Ratify new hire John Reaves, External Relations and Fan Experience Director at an annual salary of \$55,000 effective October 13, 2021; recruit for the following new positions effective October 28, 2021: Academic Curator at an annual salary of \$52,000; Manager Academic Budget and Operations, School of Law at an annual salary of \$72,000; ABE/GED/IET Instructor at an annual salary of \$42,000; Education Intake Coordinator at an annual salary of \$40,100; and, AO-K Case Manager at an annual salary of \$40,500.

B. Action Items

1. Fiscal Year 2021 External Audit Report

Chairperson Beck acknowledged that the report was already accepted by the Board so would move on to the next item.

2. Eminentes Universitatis

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Chris Kuwitzky presented the item. Cherie Bauer retired in June, 2021, after working at Washburn for 36 years, most recently for the Law School's alumni relations office. Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Parks to award the designation of Eminentes Universitatis to Ms. Bauer. Motion passed.

3. Expenditures above \$50,000

a. Memorial Union Chair Replacement

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Chris Kuwitzky presented the item, saying this item is for replacement of chairs in Washburn A/B. The current chairs are 20 years old. The purchase will be for 400 chairs and hand-trucks to store and move the chairs. The vendor was selected from a State of Kansas purchasing contract. Existing capital funds will be used for the purchase. Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Sourk to approve the purchase of the chairs. Motion passed.

4. New Technical Education Certificate – Industrial Production Technician

Vice President for Academic Affairs JuliAnn Mazachek presented the item, saying all technical programs go through two steps of approval. The Washburn Board of Regents is the first step and then it goes through the Technical Education Authority of the Kansas Board of Regents (TEA). TEA requested a name change to Industrial Production Technology Certificate. This will be a one-year certificate program involving 30 academic hours. The program will initially be offered at the Topeka Correctional Facility in Spring 2022, and anticipate expanding the program to Washburn Tech East in the future. The annual median wage is \$38,000 for the positions that this certificate is focused, but in Shawnee County, the median annual wage is \$41,000. Initial costs of the program will be covered by multiple sources including Perkins Grant funds. Motion by Regent Parks and second by Regent Hulse to approve the program with the revised name Industrial Production Technology.

In response to a question as to how certification programs get started, Dr. Mazachek stated that this particular program is part of the Department of Corrections looking to get programs into the facilities and Washburn and Washburn Tech have been very involved. Dr. Mazachek then invited Mike Strohschein, Associate Dean for Curriculum and Technical Instruction, to respond. Mr. Strohschein advised that Washburn Tech works with 300 advisory board members. This program creates an easy pathway for students to tool up in their skills to be able to support their family. The program is also set up so that inmates who are released before completing the program can complete it after release.

Regent Schmidt commented that he serves on the Governor's council to improve education in the Department of Corrections. He has spoken with business people in Hays, where he is from, and they are very pleased with the employees they have hired from correctional facilities in their area. Regent Schmidt also commented that he is very pleased to see Washburn and Washburn Tech implementing these programs. Vice President Mazachek noted that there are employers in the Topeka/Shawnee County area who are also looking to hire such persons for their businesses.

Chairperson Beck then called for the vote. Motion passed.

Motion by Regent Parks and second by Regent Sourk to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents