

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
February 3, 2022

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Beck called the meeting to order at 4:04 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. Klausman, *Mrs. Parks, and Mr. Schmidt. Mr. Padilla indicated he would not be able to attend. Mrs. Sourk was not present.

* Participated via Zoom protocol.

III. Approval of Minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting

It was moved by Regent Parks and seconded by Regent Schmidt to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting. Motion passed.

IV. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chairperson Beck said Washburn held nice fall commencement ceremonies on the 16th and 17th of December, 2021. We awarded 296 Bachelors and 27 Associate Degrees; graduated a 19-year-old from the law school; and 235 from Tech.

Beck said classes began January 18th with the same COVID protocols in place.

Chair Beck stated Football, Softball and Baseball all signed players during the National Letter of Intent signing day; and that Men's and women's basketball are continuing with their play and doing well. He said the Tennis season is starting and we will be having a tournament.

Beck said Washburn hosted a track meet on January 28th and 29th, with the event including 910 athletes from 65 teams. He reported the men's cross-country team had the third highest grade point average in the country at 3.61; and the women had a higher grade point average but were ranked 28th nationally.

Beck reported the new law school building construction is progressing and on schedule.

Chair Beck said that in the Journal of the Kansas Bar, there is a nice article on law school and Dean Pratt.

Beck said today is Washburn's Day of Giving. Marshall Meek, President of the Washburn Alumni Association and Foundation, was asked to comment. Meek stated this is the fifth consecutive year and the event grows each year. There are over 50 projects around campus seeking donations. Meek further noted that there are seven hours and 48 minutes left. They are currently at \$181,762 and 763 total gifts, which puts the event significantly ahead of last year's pace at this time, which was \$144,000 and 586 gifts.

B. President's Report

President Farley introduced Abby Troutman and Shayden Hanes, President and Vice President of WSGA.

Dr. Farley said the Governor has submitted her budget for next fiscal year. There is a proposed increased amount of state aid for KBOR institutions, but is in exchange for no tuition increase. Dr. Farley stated that he has explained to the Governor that Washburn cannot exchange no tuition increase for increased state aid because state aid is much smaller for us than for KBOR institutions. The Governor's budget also includes a proposed 5% increase for state employees, which does not include faculty. President Farley stated he will be looking to have a salary program for next year's budget.

President Farley reported the Governor has also proposed to eliminate sales tax for food and food ingredients. Dr. Farley said other entities besides the State collect sales tax, such as Washburn. In 1999, Washburn went to a sales tax in order to remove the property tax. The State's sales tax rate is about 6%. Washburn's is .065%. If Washburn were to lose its sales tax, that would be a loss of \$3-4 million, which would equate to about a 10% tuition increase.

Dr. Farley said as Chairperson Beck noted, classes started this spring semester with the same COVID protocols; but with people returning from winter break, Washburn experienced a higher rate of positive tests. We normally experience around 30 positive tests in a week, but at the beginning of this semester, there were over 200 positive tests in one week. The numbers have been coming down the last couple of weeks.

President Farley indicated enrollment is the same as last Spring, which is a good sign. The numbers appear to be good for applications and admissions for next fall.

Dr. Farley reported activities are underway across campus and the theme for WUmester is "Truth".

Dr. Farley reported the Spring Career Fair will be held on February 16. He said there are many good jobs out there for our graduates.

In response to a question about having some presentation to KBOR about differences in funding, President Farley stated he has presented in the past during the August planning meeting but that didn't occur this year.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

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

1. Liquidated Claims Approval – November 2021

2. Honorary Degree Candidates

Award of honorary degrees to: Kristin Rinne, Doctor of Science Sc.D.; Mark Yardley, Doctor of Commerce D.Comm; and, Cynthia Heath, Doctor of Law LL.D.

B. Action Items

1. Expenditures over \$50,000

a. Henderson Emergency Roof Repair – Ratification

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee presented, saying Henderson suffered damage from the wind storm a few weeks ago. Mr. Lee contacted the Board Chair for permission to go ahead with roof repair because of the timely need for repairs, so this is seeking a ratification of the expenditure. The vendor has a prior history of good work with the institution. Funds came from prior capital funding. In response to a question regarding insurance, Vice President Lee responded that the deductible is \$100,000, so there is no insurance to cover. It was moved by Regent Hulse and seconded by Regent Dietrick to ratify the expenditure for the Henderson roof repair. Motion passed.

b. Replacement of Various Door Access Control Locks

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee said Washburn is seeking to improve exterior access control for seven buildings to improve security and access to the buildings. The vendor has been used for several other buildings and they will integrate with our current systems. Funding will come from HERFF grant awards. It was moved by Regent Klausman and seconded by Regent Dietrick to approve the agreement for access control locks. Motion passed.

c. Washburn Institute of Technology Financial Aid Platform

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee said currently at Washburn Tech financial aid is processed using paper and pencil, not utilizing electronic processes like at Washburn University. This would integrate Washburn Tech into the existing platform. The vendor was the low bidder and also has experience with our current platform, Banner. Washburn has used this vendor before. This will be funded from Washburn Tech HERFF funds.

In response to a question regarding the wide range of bids, Lee responded that because the vendor has many in-house resources to handle the project, they don't have the additional costs of having to contract out portions of the project. It was moved by Regent Klausman and seconded by Regent Buhler to approve the upgrade for the financial aid platform at Washburn Tech. Motion passed.

d. Earth Moving Simulator for Commercial and Heavy Construction

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee reported Washburn received a grant to purchase this equipment. Lee stated Washburn only received one bid and funding is from the grant. It was moved by Regent Buhler and seconded by Regent Schmidt to approve the purchase of the simulator. Motion passed.

2. Eminentes Universitatis

Vice President for Academic Affairs JuliAnn Mazachek presented, saying this is to recognize two outstanding individuals who worked for Washburn for many years. Jo Hunt worked at the law school for 12 years. She oversaw many administrative functions of the school. Eugene Williams spent 23 years at KTWU before retiring. Williams was involved on the national level as a board member of the public broadcasting system and led KTWU through times of great change. It was moved by Regent Parks and seconded by Regent Klausman to award the title of Eminentes Universitatis to Jo Hunt and Eugene Williams. Motion passed.

Chairperson Beck asked Marshall Meek for a last check on the Day of Giving. Meek reported they were up to 794 gifts totaling over \$237,000.

It was moved by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Hulse to adjourn.

The Board of Regents meeting adjourned 4:38 p.m.

/s/

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents