

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
July 11, 2022

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Buhler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Washburn B of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were: Mr. Beck, Mrs. Buhler, Mr. Dietrick, *Mr. Padilla, *Mr. Schmidt, and Mrs. Sourk.

* Participated via Zoom protocol.

III.

Chair Buhler led the discussion of search firms and made note of a potential executive session. She said that at the last meeting, the board narrowed the field to two firms. A subcommittee comprised of Regents Beck, Dietrick, Sourk and Buhler met with the two firms via Zoom on July 6 to hear presentations from both. They had a good conversation with lots of questions and answers. The recommendation is to award the bid to WittKiefer.

Mrs. Buhler noted that a couple things stood out: their placement and broader reach besides just academics, stakeholder interviews and a robust, more well-rounded approach.

Regent Beck noted that Regent Dietrick summarized the subcommittee's thought process. Regent Dietrick explained that WittKiefer had more broad-based searches, rather than just presidential higher education positions. They have done number of searches within the past five years with great results, including hiring 30% people of color and 46% women. The representatives at the presentation were involved with the K-State search. Their professional fee was comparable to others, not the highest or lowest. The firm provided a realistic time frame of approximately six months. If a search is not successful or the candidate does not stay through the first year, they will do another search at no additional cost to the University. They will assist with the transition of a new president.

Regent Sourk said that Regent Dietrick outlined the committee's thoughts well. She said WittKiefer's extensive meetings with campus and community at large were impressive, that they plan to engage with all stakeholders, and that they have great technology to use in the search.

Board Secretary and General Counsel Marc Fried was asked how to proceed. He explained that both firms sent their form contract, so the Board needs to discuss any needed revisions or terms in executive session, then discuss the next steps and then approval depending on what is discussed.

IV. Executive Session

At 9:13 a.m. Board Chair Buhler moved that the regular session of the Board meeting be recessed and the Board go into executive session to discuss matters relating to personnel who are non-elected, and for consultation with General Counsel on matters which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. The regular session shall resume at 9:45 a.m. in this same room. Is there a second? Regent Beck seconded the motion. All in favor say 'Aye'. All opposed say 'Nay'. Motion passed. The Board recessed into executive session.

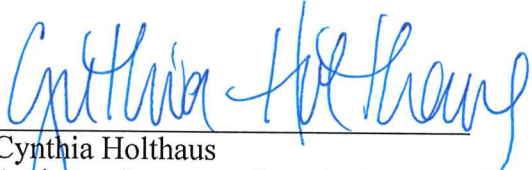
At 9:48 a.m. the Board resumed in regular session.

Regent Dietrick moved to approve the contract with WittKeifer contingent on and subject to the revised agreement complying with Washburn's RFP, with final agreement subject to inclusion of an ITS clause. Regent Sourk seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Chair Buhler explained that the Board continues to work on the composition of the search committee that is inclusive of college and community members. They will finalize members now that WittKiefer has been selected.

Buhler noted that the Board is having preliminary discussions about appointment of interim president and potential candidates are being discussed.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.


Cynthia Holthaus
Assistant Secretary, Board of Regents