

**WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 11, 2023**

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**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Buhler called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Washburn Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

**II. Roll Call**

Participating were: Mr. Beck, Mrs. Buhler, Mr. Dicus, Mr. Dietrick, Mr. Hulse, Mr. Nave, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Romero and Ms. Sourk.

**III. Presentation by Board Chair**

Good Afternoon and welcome. This is truly a great day for Washburn University and the Topeka community. Thank you all for being here this afternoon.

I'm Shelly Buhler and I serve as the chair of the Washburn University Board of Regents, and it is my honor to introduce our institution's next President. It goes without saying – this is a time of change. Our campus has renewed energy and excitement. Our community is thriving thanks to the efforts of civic and business leaders. Please stand if you are an elected official or community leader. It is a privilege to have you here and we appreciate your support.

There is incredible momentum to make our home an even better place to live, work, study and succeed. Washburn's new president is excited to play a key role in that process. This leader is committed to academic excellence and embodies the core values on which Washburn was built – Integrity, Excellence, Inclusion, Accountability, Respect, Collaboration and Innovation. Our new President will continue to move the university forward while embracing our rich history.

Before I introduce this individual, I want to thank the many people who dedicated their time and talents to make this selection possible.

First, the presidential search committee – chaired by Greg Greenwood. The committee included 28 people who represent diverse sections of our community; faculty, staff and students, along with alumni and members of our community, they spent countless hours reviewing and discussing more than 75 applicants from around the country and then narrowing that large pool. Thank you search committee.

I also want to recognize the Washburn Board of Regents. After the search committee identified a handful of finalists, board members poured over the information before interviewing several finalists. I cannot thank everyone enough for their dedicated service that spanned several days and evenings. This was no easy task. Thank you.

In addition, I want to thank WittKieffer – the search firm that guided us through this process. We were impressed with their diligence in gathering information from stakeholders as well as their robust, well rounded approach. Their experience in national searches proved to be invaluable.

Finally, I wish to thank the entire Washburn family for their hard work through this past semester. Interim is a word that was used often on our campus this academic year, and yet despite this time of change, you have continued to put students first, we sincerely appreciate the efforts and focus of everyone to keep operations running smoothly – with special thanks to interim president Marshall Meek. He has led with a strong, steady, and thoughtful approach – always emphasizing the excellence and value of a Washburn education. Thank you, Marshall.

When we began the search process, we identified the qualities of an ideal candidate – community-minded, collaborative, and innovative. We also wanted someone who is bold, visionary and a strong communicator.

With confidence I say we have found someone who checks all the boxes. In addition, she is an Ichabod at heart – two of her children and many members of her extended family are Washburn Alumni – and she lives Washburn’s motto – Not For Ourselves Alone.

At this time, I would entertain a motion to appoint our next President

#### **IV. Motion for Appointment of President and authorization for contract**

The following motion was made by Regent member and Mayor of Topeka Michael Padilla:

This individual brings decades of experience in higher education. She has served as a professor, dean, foundation and alumni association president, as well as a Vice-president for Academic Affairs. Now, we add Washburn University President to that prestigious list of titles. We are thrilled to have her begin on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

I move that Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek be hired as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of Washburn University and authorize the board chair and vice-chair to complete negotiations and enter into a formal contract with Dr. Mazachek, subject to ratification by the full board at the next regular meeting.

Second by Regent Dietrick. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **V. Presentation by Dr. Mazachek**

I'm deeply honored and deeply thrilled to return home to the great state of Kansas and to serve this outstanding institution at such an important time in its history and at an important time in higher education. I am excited about the possibilities we together will explore in the future for Washburn University and I am excited to work with all of you to envision a bright and bold future.

Washburn is at such an exciting point in its history and it's filled with great opportunity and challenge. It is a time when the environment and our work together can create many new opportunities. Washburn has been making a difference in the lives of students for

nearly 158 years and, by golly, we are going to do the best we can to set this firm foundation so that we can build the next 158 years of Washburn University.

Washburn has a dedicated team of leaders. We have outstanding regents, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners, many of whom I know and have worked with first-hand through the years. We cannot possibly get to know what all the possibilities are for Washburn University and its future but I know that when we work together we will discover, we will plan, establish and realize amazing dreams and goals for the future of Washburn.

This is a wonderful place dedicated to its students and their success... to providing an education for all with so many possible educational and career pathways... to teaching excellence... to high-quality academic and technical programs... and to creating truly exceptional learning experiences for our students.

This is the place integral to the success of its community and our state and this is a place poised to take the next step and rise even further. There is so much positive momentum and so many yet-to-be-realized opportunities. I am just so energized and enthusiastic to get started and begin our work together. If you can't tell that, I'll just tell you again. We will build and achieve an outstanding vision and future.

I want you all to know just how honored I am to have been selected as the next president of Washburn University. I look forward to working with all of you and I'm truly excited about our future together. I thank you for being here today and for welcoming Keith and me back home to the Ichabod family and I wish you the very best and I will see you in just a couple of weeks.

Go Bods!

It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Beck to adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

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Marc Fried  
Secretary, Board of Regents