

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
May 2, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Buhler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were: Regent Buhler, Regent Dicus, Regent Dietrick, Regent Nave, Regent Padilla, Regent Romero, and Regent Sourk.

III. Reports

A. Chair

Chair Buhler shared commencement ceremonies are next week. This summer, the Board of Regents will hold a retreat to allow time for in-depth discussion. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the School of Nursing. There is an open house and tour tomorrow and this fall will be a formal celebration. Lastly, Chair Buhler offered congratulations to the men's and women's Tennis coach, Kirby Ronning, who was recently named the MIAA Coach of the Year.

B. President

President Mazachek recognized the Washburn Debate Team on being crowned the National Champions at the National Forensic Association Lincoln-Douglas Championship last week. She noted for Debate, no matter what level of institution you are, you all compete at the same national championship. The President also recognized individual accomplishments at the tournament, including junior Cade Blenden who was the Tournament Champion and named the top speaker. Special recognition was also given to Debate Coaches Kevin O'Leary and Steve Doubledee.

President Mazachek shared her excitement for commencement ceremonies next week. She reminded everyone that this graduating class was the freshmen class during Covid. The University is looking forward to celebrating them and has added some exciting changes to the ceremonies.

The President noted that the university held the annual Employee Recognition ceremony last week and it was a phenomenal event. Faculty and staff were recognized for years of service as well as outstanding teaching and service awards. The University also

recognized recent retirees. One faculty member is retiring after 50 years of service in the Law School.

President Mazachek announced a partnership between Washburn Athletics and Envista Credit Union for Bod Cares. This partnership will allow them to reach out to more students in the community.

C. Budget Committee

Vice Chair John Dietrick shared the Budget Committee held a meeting prior to the Board meeting and reviewed the proposed FY 24-25 budget. The committee received positive news. Mr. Dietrick commended Vice President Luther Lee on running a great meeting. Moving forward, the budget team will work with Dr. Mazachek to fine tune the budget and the expectation is a final budget will be presented to the Board for consideration in June.

D. Faculty Senate

Tracy Wagner, outgoing Vice President for Faculty Senate, spoke on behalf of Dr. Tonya Ricklefs, President of Faculty Senate, who was not able to attend. Ms. Wagner thanked the Board for the opportunity to share with them Faculty Senate accomplishments from this past year. Highlights included providing opportunities for faculty to engage in important discussions on general education, discussions on how to improve various degrees, and exploring opportunities for student education. Details to implementing the General Education framework were debated across campus by the Schools and College before moving to the Academic Affairs Committee and Faculty Senate meetings. It was voted on by Faculty Senate to pass this on to General Faculty to increase the opportunities for discussion. During that time, units and programs made modifications to their degrees to ensure that students graduating from Washburn continue to receive a high-quality education.

Ms. Wagner concluded noting that Faculty Senate is committed to continuing to serve students and provide them with a high-quality education. She thanked the Board for their support of faculty and encouraged them to continue examining ways for continual support, particularly in reference to pay and the promotion process of lecturers, as well as supporting increase pay and benefits for all Washburn employees.

E. Washburn Student Government Association (WSGA)

Antonio Martinez, outgoing President for Washburn Student Government Association, a First-Generation student, and currently a junior at Washburn, shared he was thankful for the opportunity to serve in this role the past year. He introduced Tevin Asamoah, outgoing Vice President for WSGA, who is also a First-Generation student.

Tevin thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide them with an update. The leadership for WSGA spent time this year reviewing campus safety. They traversed

campus to observe exterior areas and to check on dark spaces with poor lighting, checked proper placement of cameras, and noted areas with excessive foliage. WSGA allocated funds to support basic needs for students such as STI testing at Student Health and with the Psychological Clinic for therapy sessions.

Antonio spoke on the advocacy efforts of WSGA. The students had great conversations with legislators. On February 14, ten Washburn students participated with other KBOR schools to lobby on behalf of education funding and other efforts. They participated in the First Gen Day at the Capitol in which the Governor signed a proclamation. WSGA also created a proposal for legal services for students on campus to assist with tickets and landlord tenant issues. Their organization continues to build community partnerships with Topeka School District 501 as well as participating in the Nancy Perry Day of Caring.

Vice President Eric Grospitch introduced the new WSGA President, George Burdick, and Vice President, Bella Wood.

IV. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Motion by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Nave to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the March 21, 2024, Meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – February 2024**
- 3. Liquidated Claims Approval – March 2024**
- 4. Washburn University Policies, Regulations, and Procedures Manual – Section P. Trademark and Licensing**

B. Action Items

1. Eminentes Universitatis

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. Washburn awards the Eminentes Universitatis designation to long-term employees who have worked for ten years or more, retire in good standing and service performed was judged meritorious. The university is recommending two employees.

Linda Griffin, Application Analyst, served Washburn University for over 36 years. She joined Washburn in 1988 and over the years held several positions in ITS and was instrumental in the major efforts of converting the homegrown AS400 system to the current Banner system. More recently, she provided technology support for

critical business processes with payroll and budget planning. Linda will retire on June 30th.

Debbi Vining began her career at Washburn in 1981 and has served in the Vice President for Administration and Treasurer's office since 1985. She held many roles within this unit including Office Specialist, Administrative Specialist and Budget Assistant. She demonstrated exceptional dedication, attention to detail, and served on numerous committees during her 42 years of service. Debbie will retire on May 10.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Sourk. Motion passed.

2. Emeriti

Provost John Fritch presented this item and recommended Dr. James E. (Jim) Smith be designated Professor Emeritus (posthumously). Dr. Smith joined the Department of Social Work at Washburn in 2008. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Hampton Institute, a Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University, a Master of Public Administration from University of La Verne, and a Ph.D. from Kansas State University. Dr. Smith retired as a U.S. Army Lt. Col. in 2003 after serving both active duty and reserve posts. He was a licensed specialist clinical social worker in Kansas, Wyoming, and North Carolina. He was a dedicated educator, clinical supervisor, mentor, and friend to many at Washburn.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Padilla. Motion passed.

President Mazachek thanked Amy Smith for attending and shared the major impact Jim had on our students and the Washburn community.

3. New Program – Bachelor of General Studies (BGS)

Provost John Fritch noted the proposed Bachelor of General Studies program is designed to encourage students to complete a four-year degree. There are many students who begin a major program of study and then stop due to finances, life circumstances, or because they cannot pass a course. In Shawnee County, there are 38,000 individuals who have earned some college credit but have not completed a degree. This program offers a straightforward path for students to graduate in a timely manner, provides a flexible curriculum, and helps students avoid accruing more debt.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

4. New Program – Associate of Applied Science, Skilled Trades

Provost John Fritch presented this item. The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Skilled Trades program requires course work at both Washburn Tech and Washburn University. There are currently 52 students enrolled in the articulation degree programs that could utilize this new program which provides an important pathway to a bachelor's degree. Dr. Fritch thanked Dean Scott Smathers and Dean Zach Frank for their hard work on this item.

Motion by Regent Nave and seconded by Regent Romero. Motion passed.

5. New Program – Associate of Applied Science, Family and Human Services – Early Childhood Professional

Provost John Fritch presented this item and noted the reason for the creation of this new program is to shorten the time for completion. This program will provide a pathway for completing an associate degree and will better meet the needs of the students.

Motion by Regent Padilla and seconded by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

6. Inactivation of the Associate of Arts, Family and Human Services – Early Childhood Professional

Provost John Fritch noted, due to the previous agenda item, this program is no longer the preferred degree pathway.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

7. Inactivation of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, Mathematics Secondary Education: Advanced Mathematics 6-12

Provost John Fritch presented this item. The Department of Mathematics has been offering three ways to get a bachelor's degree. The math and education courses were identical in all three degrees to meet state requirements. With the additional degree requirements for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, it will push the two programs well over 120 credit hours. Therefore, the Department of Mathematics decided to inactivate the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs and offer only the Bachelor of Education in Advanced Mathematics 6-12.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Padilla. Motion passed.

8. D2L – Brightspace LMS Contract Renewal

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. The University requests approval to renew the contract with Desire2Learn (D2L). The contract was evaluated by a university committee and determined it meets the needs of campus and is working well. It was evaluated for risks from a cybersecurity point and found no risks.

Motion by Regent Padilla and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

9. Intelligent Learning Platform Renewal

Vice President Luther Lee shared the Intelligent Learning Platform provides the integration between Banner and Desire 2Learn. The connection provides real-time data for new or changed courses, grades, student enrollment and faculty assignments. Funding is available in the ITS operating budget to cover these costs.

Motion by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

10. EAB Strategic Advisory Services Contract Renewal

Cynthia Holthaus, Chief of Staff, presented this item. The EAB Strategic Advisory Services allows access to the full scope of EAB services including their extensive research portfolio and consultant support. Because the university uses their enrollment success services, these advising services are even more robust as research directly aligns with other efforts. Washburn received a renewal offer for five years at a flat rate, if we renew in advance of our current agreement expiring on June 30, 2025. The university recommends the renewal of this agreement.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

11. Washburn Tech East 2nd Floor Buildout

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and noted this project would buildout the second floor of the Washburn Tech East campus building. The new space will provide classroom space for GED and English programs, as well as adding a student lounge, conference room, and required facilities such as restrooms. The project is funded by the State Capital Outlay fund which helps grow and improve programs in Kansas. The recommendation is to award the contract to Kelley Construction.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

Regent Padilla stated he is glad to see this happening and welcomes second language students. He noted the vision was to continue to grow and serve as an attraction for that neighborhood, and he believes it has done that.

12. Petro Women's Locker Room Renovation

Vice President Luther Lee reported that after the completion of the softball locker room, the softball team vacated the women's locker room in Petro which was shared by women's softball, soccer, and volleyball teams. The renovation of the existing space will better accommodate the soccer and volleyball teams. Due to the upcoming renovation of Lee Arena, the university intends to issue this work as a change order to the CMAR agreement with Senne Company. Funding is provided by private funds.

Motion by Regent Nave and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

13. Petro/Whiting Building Automation System Upgrade

Vice President Luther Lee noted this project is to upgrade the Building Automation System (BAS) in the Petro/Whiting building which is part of the FY25 Capital Funding plan. This work is a continuation of BAS upgrades in all buildings on campus due to unsupported software that controls our HVAC system. The new system is a Trane BAS and will communicate with our existing campus Trane system for better control.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Romero. Motion passed.

14. Fiber-Optic Backbone Infrastructure

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. The university is seeking to install a new fiber optic backbone to serve the entire main campus. It will provide a network to carry service to all parts of campus. It will be designed to survive a cut in one of the fiber lines without any loss of service. The project was broken down into three phases to allow for capital funding to support the total project.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Dicus. Motion passed.

15. TouchNet Renewal

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and noted TouchNet is a payment gateway for student tuition payments and an infrastructure for the billing process. It provides an online Marketplace product for campus merchants to accept payments via a virtual Washburn mall, it integrates with Banner, and it helps with PCI. The university has been working with TouchNet for over 20 years and has found them to be dependable.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Sourk. Motion passed.

C. Information Item(s)

1. Quarterly Financial Analysis

V. Next Washburn Board of Regents Meeting – Thursday, June 14, 2024

VI. Executive Session.

Chair Buhler moved at 4:27 p.m. that the regular session of this meeting be recessed immediately following a 5-minute break into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Regent Romero seconded the motion. Motion passed. The executive session began at 4:32 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting reconvened at 4:47 p.m. Regent Nave moved the meeting to be adjourned and was seconded by Regent Sourk. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents