

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
September 11, 2025

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Dietrick 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 Fisher
Regent Jeffrey
Regent Nave
Regent Romero **by Zoom*
Regent Sourk

III. Fiscal Year 2025 Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing

Chair Dietrick described the process that would be followed and then declared the hearing open for public comment at 3:33 p.m. Chair Dietrick asked if anyone present wished to speak at the open hearing. Secretary Fried announced no one had signed up to speak in advance.

Vice President Lee reported the Board approved the notice of the revenue neutral rate hearing at the June 12, 2025 meeting. The notice was published in the September 1, 2025 edition of The Topeka Metro News. The tax is statutory required and restricted. The combined rate with three mills for capital and .45 mills restricted for insurance and tort claims. The proposal is to keep the rates the same as last year at 3.45 mills.

With no one responding to Chair Dietrick's question to speak at the hearing, he closed the hearing at 3:38 p.m.

It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dicus to approve the revenue neutral rate published. A roll call vote was taken, and the results were as follows:

Regent Buhler – Yes
Regent Dicus – Yes

Regent Dietrick – Yes
Regent Fisher – Yes
Regent Jeffrey – Yes
Regent Nave – Yes
Regent Romero – Yes
Regent Sourk – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Fiscal Year 2025 Public Budget Hearing - Luther Lee

Chair Dietrick described the process that would be followed and then declared the hearing open for public comment at 3:39 p.m. Secretary Fried announced that no one had signed up to speak at the hearing.

Vice President Luther Lee recapped the steps taken to prepare the FY 2026 budget and noted it was published in The Topeka Metro News on September 1. The overall budget totals agree with the budget presented at the June Board meeting.

Chair Dietrick asked if anyone present wanted to make remarks. No one responded. Chair Dietrick closed the public hearing at 3:41 p.m. Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Nave to approve the budget as published. Motion passed.

The regular meeting resumed at 3:42 p.m.

Chair Dietrick noted today is a day of remembrance as the United States experienced a very deadly and horrific attack 24 years ago. A moment of silence was held for 9/11.

V. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Dietrick shared the Board held a Retreat on August 13 on campus. It included a very robust agenda. The Board heard from the Commissioner of the MIAA, received a presentation on data reporting, housing, and a legislative update from our lobbyists. The Board also heard an update on the Strategic Plan and noted the many accomplishments this past year. A working lunch was scheduled and included a Board Meeting. A shout out was given to Chartwells for their homemade chips. The Chair thanked everyone who attended and those involved in putting it all together.

B. President's Report

President Mazachek noted the university is already 20 days into the campus semester and more days at the Tech campus. There is vibrancy and student excitement at both campuses. With all the moves on the main campus, students have reported being in different buildings for the first time. Several exciting events took place such as the

Nail Hammering at Tech North, the sign unveiling naming the Tech campus at Huntoon the Bruce and Theresa McPherson campus, and the ribbon cutting for the Dialogue Coffee House in the SAS building. Upcoming events include the Career Fair, Kansas Book Festival, and the Kansas Court of Appeals will hear cases in the Dole Hall next week on Constitution Day.

President Mazachek introduced Dr. Teresa Clouch, Acting Vice President for Student Life to share an update on activities in Student Life.

Dr. Clouch noted the mission of Student Life is to educate and support students through engaging the community, enlivening campus, and enriching the Washburn experience. Events recently held included Back 2 School Bash at Tech, Move-In Day, WU Fest and Rock the Rec. Career Engagement will host the Career Fair, and 115 organizations have already registered for the event. Student Accessibility has over 300 students registered with accommodations. Student Health Services will be going live on the 15th with EMR (Electronic Medical Records) and are currently conducting flu clinics on both campuses. The Office of Student Involvement and Development (OSID) launched a revised Bods Connect this fall with over 100 student organizations and 1,990 student members. CAPS (Counseling, Advocacy and Prevention Services) have been busy with Bods Feeding Bods as well as preparing for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The SRWC (Student Recreation and Wellness Center) is averaging 400 members daily and Residential Life is busy working through room change requests and revising the application process for FY26-27. Dr. Clouch also noted Student Life continues to work closely with the University Behavior and Threat Assessment team as well as with the Washburn Police.

*Regent Romero left the meeting during the previous presentation.

President Mazachek reported tomorrow is census day when they officially count enrollment. Numbers will be released by KBOR at the end of the month.

VI. Presentation

A. Sabbatical Presentation – John Fritch

Vice President John Fritch explained that sabbaticals are important to the university. To qualify you must be a full-time faculty member for at least six years. The sabbatical is a paid semester away from classes and allows the faculty member to engage in teaching scholarship and provide an opportunity to keep them up to date on their area of expertise. Vice President Fritch introduced Erik McHenry, Professor in the English Department, to share his recent experience.

Professor McHenry described his fascination with a story he heard in two different songs. He researched archives and learned there was an actual event that occurred in the 1800s in which Stagger Lee was shot and killed in a St. Louis tavern after an argument over a Stetson hat. Professor McHenry teaches an advanced honors writing

section about archive articles. The sabbatical provided him with the opportunity to work on a book he is writing about Stagger Lee. He anticipates receiving publishing news in a couple of weeks and hopes to finish the book during summers and possibly take an unpaid semester off to complete it.

VII. New Business

A. Consent Agent

Motion by Regent Dicus and second by Regent Fisher to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the June 12, 2025 and August 13, 2025 Meetings

B. Action Items

1. Naming

President Mazachek presented this item and shared the role of the Board of Regents in the naming of physical facilities on the Washburn University and Washburn Tech campuses. It is considered the highest honor Washburn can bestow. The recognition is reserved for those individuals or organizations who have made exceptional contributions to Washburn through exemplary personal and/or professional contributions, meritorious service, or substantial financial commitments.

Washburn opened the Indoor Athletics Facility in November 2020. This project was funded in part by the generosity of private donors, through use of university reserves, and through issuance of debt. The fundraising component of the project was successful even though the facility was not named at that time.

A small group of anonymous donors recently made a transformational gift to Washburn athletics for scholarships for student athletes. These gifts were all made in honor of Washburn alumnus William Sneed. Mr. Sneed passed away in 2022. He received his BA from Washburn in 1977, his JD from Washburn Law in 1980, and served many years on the Board of Regents, the Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Ichabod Athletics Club. President Mazachek recommends the Board of Regents name the Indoor Athletics Facility the Sneed Indoor Athletics Facility.

Regent Sourk shared that Mr. Sneed was a big Washburn supporter and was very passionate about Washburn athletics. He played an active role in the design and location of this facility. It would be an honor to name it after him.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Jeffrey to name the Indoor Athletics Facility the Sneed Indoor Athletics Facility. Motion passed.

2. Data Reporting Project for Long Term Financial Sustainability

President Mazachek presented this item and explained that decisions are made every day by leaders throughout this organization that are at the core of Washburn's long term financial sustainability. Washburn leaders need ready access to vital information to link resource allocation decisions with strategy and to use this information for ongoing decisions involving students, costs, faculty, staff, and strategic investments.

The Board met rpk at the Board Retreat. A detailed action plan was shared for Washburn's next steps in continuing to develop relevant business information capacity and culture throughout the university. Washburn leaders and key data leadership will be supported by rpk Group to make progress on two key goals: developing an information framework for key functions and to build capacity with current staff by furthering their skillset.

President Mazachek recommends the Board of Regents approve the awarding of a one-year contract to rpk not to exceed an amount of \$300,000. Motion by Regent Nave and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve this one-year contract. Motion passed.

3. Washburn Tech North Project Update and Modifications

Vice President Luther Lee noted in February 2025, the Board approved the Design and Construction Manager teams for the Washburn Tech Manufacturing Center Project in North Topeka. Included in the design and construction pricing were alternates to add robotics and electrical program spaces. These programs will enhance the offerings at this campus. Funding for an additional 1.5 million in constructions costs is available from the Tech Base Operating Grant.

Eric Just, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Services, shared a rendering of the Tech North facility and noted it will add another 20,000 square feet to the facility and indicated where these programs will be located in the building.

President Mazachek recommends the Board of Regents approve the updated Project Budget of \$12,630,000 for the Washburn Tech North project. Motion by Regent Dicus and second by Regent Fisher. Motion passed.

4. Renewal of Casualty Insurance Policy

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and thanked IMA, Washburn's brokers, and Chris Herrera, Washburn Safety Director, who assisted in completing this process. IMA worked with Phyl to develop a package for Washburn. Information was based on the university's claims history and the current provider's desire to continue to provide coverage for Washburn. The proposal is for a 4.3% increase in renewal premium for the casualty lines. A significant part

of the increase is due to increasing the university's coverage limits for Cyber claims.

Vice President Lee introduced Sarah Van Ryn, Account Executive for IMA. Ms. Van Ryn shared casualty insurance continues to have increases due to litigation and settlements. She noted that Washburn's loss history is favorable. The company can offset increases with decreases for some premiums.

President Mazachek recommends the Board of Regents approve the renewal of casualty insurance coverage for \$624,456 for fiscal year 2026. Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Sourk. Motion passed.

VIII. Next Meeting Date

A. Board of Regents Meeting – October 16, 2025

IX. Executive Session

Chair Dietrick moved the regular session of this meeting be recessed immediately into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The open meeting shall resume at 4:52 p.m. in this same room. The subject of this executive session will be to discuss situations involving one or more Washburn employees and to protect the privacy of the employee or employees involved. Regent Nave seconded the motion. Motion passed at 4:37 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 4:52 p.m.

X. Adjournment

Regent Sourk moved the meeting to be adjourned and was seconded by Regent Dicus. The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents