

**WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
October 16, 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 Dietrick
Regent Fisher
Regent Jeffrey
Regent Romero
Regent Sourk

III. Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Dietrick shared Mayor Padilla was recognized as the 2025 Kansas Mayors Association Mayor of the Year. You can check out the video tribute online. Unfortunately, the Mayor had a conflict today and could not attend the Board Meeting. Congratulations to Mayor Padilla.

Regent Nave arrived at 3:31 p.m.

Chair Dietrick thanked Marshall Meek and Susie Hoffman for organizing a great Alumni trip to Italy in which he was able to go on. There were 139 alumni on the trip. Susie did a wonderful job leading this large group.

Chair Dietrick noted Shared Governance is a prominent issue in higher education and the Board is diligently working on it. They heard from an AGB expert last year. The Board Executive and Governance committee will meet soon to work on a shared governance statement. The President recently appointed a substantial committee for shared governance on campus.

The Chair reminded everyone that next week is Homecoming and invited them to attend one of the many activities. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and the football game kicks off at 1:00 p.m. Please come out and support the Ichabods.

B. President's Report

President Mazacheck reported the good enrollment for this fall. She recognized Lori Hutchinson and the Communications and Marketing team for ranking #8 in the country for social media activity and a #1 ranking of all Division 2 universities for Instagram. The President attended the WSGA meeting last night and noted the students asked very insightful questions. She held a welcome reception for new faculty in August and the first ever reception for new staff and their supervisors in September. Enrollment celebrations were held last week at Tech and at the University. Approximately five hundred faculty and staff attended and enjoyed a sweet treat and time visiting with colleagues.

President Mazacheck shared Sarah Stepp was named the Director of the Mulvane Art Museum last week. Sarah was serving as the interim Director and emerged as the top candidate. Several departments on campus have been hosting K-12 students. Approximately 276 students participated in Women in Science Day and tomorrow 146 high school students will participate in the High School Art Day. It is reported that 30% of these students choose Washburn. The University also hosted two marching band competitions recently with great attendance. Faculty and staff are working diligently to tell Washburn's story.

Lastly, the President noted the Athletic Hall of Fame event will take place this Saturday. Coach Herron will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Washburn's Volleyball team is ranked #2 in the Country and will play tonight. Dr. Erik McHenry received a book contract for his story he presented to the Board at the last meeting. Congratulations to Dr. McHenry.

C. Committee Report(s)

1. Compliance, Audit and Risk Committee Report

Regent Romero reported the Compliance, Audit and Risk committee met prior to this meeting. Kaleb Lilly with Rubin Brown recapped the status of the audit. It is an unmodified report. They anticipate it will be finalized in November. Because of the government shutdown, the Federal report may be pulled and submitted later. KTWU has always been included in the audit report in a separate section. Since the Corporation for Public Broadcasting no longer exists, it will not be pulled out and reported separately. It will be represented in the report. Great work by Luther and his staff. Shelby Grau and Marc Fried reported on risk management. They are in the process of forming a risk management committee to have a more comprehensive approach to reporting campus wide. Other

information included requirements for the Clery Act and the new Anti-Hazing Act.

2. Finance and Capital Strategies Committee Report

Regent Sourk reported the committee met on September 18. They discussed health insurance renewals, and the good news is it will remain flat. They reviewed the capital projects happening on campus and noted all are going well. The committee analyzed the state funding going into the next session and how they can fill budget gaps.

IV. Information Item(s)

A. FY25 Financial Highlights

Vice President Luther Lee thanked his staff including Debbie White, Rhonda Thornburgh and Jeanette Spurgin. Their hard work helps produce the documents the auditors need to complete their report. Luther also recognized Kaleb Lilly with Rubin Brown and noted he is very understanding of Washburn's timelines and has a good working relationship with his team. Vice President Lee presented a high-level overview of the 2025 financial highlights.

V. New Business

A. Consent Agent

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Nave to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 11, 2025 Meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – May 2025**
- 3. Liquidated Claims Approval – June 2025**
- 4. Washburn University Policies, Regulations and Procedures – Section E. Benefits**

B. Action Items

1. Walz Tetrick Agency – FY26 Media Campaign

Lori Hutchinson, Executive Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing, presented this item. Washburn has a master service agreement with Walz Tetrick Advertising in Kansas City, and the University is implementing a new structure

for collaborating with them. Previously, work with this company was approved by the Board as one large contract. Moving forward, projects will come to the Board for approval when they exceed the \$150,000 threshold. Funds are available in the Strategic Communications and Marketing budget for this expenditure.

Motion by Regent Romero and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve an expenditure of \$283,808 to Walz Tetrick for Washburn's annual digital media purchase. Motion passed.

2. Health Plan Renewal

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item.

Regent John Dicus arrived at 4:07 p.m.

Mr. Lee noted that the Watko Benefit Group reviews Washburn's health plan with Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS). Premiums will not be adjusted this year. Luther credits the University's proactive approach to employee wellness.

Jessica Hawkins, Benefits Consultant with Watko, presented an overview of the University's plan. Washburn self-funds medical and dental and BCBS administers the plan. The advantage of being self-funded is the ability to be flexible. Washburn can also see what is driving costs and therefore can make sound decisions. Ms. Hawkins shared the comparison between 2025 to 2026 renewal costs. Overall, there is an expected cost increase of 1.56%, which is good compared with other trends. The plan remains extremely competitive.

Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Fisher to renew Washburn's health plans for one year, effective January 1, 2026. Motion passed.

3. Resolution Establishing Intent to Issue Tax-Exempt Obligations

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. In August 2025, the Board approved a contract with Trane to perform an audit of the campus' heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment. Trane will provide an estimate to update a portion of the system's infrastructure. The University will use the law firm of Gilmore & Bell and Hilltop Securities to assist in evaluating the financing options. Trane will determine the total cost after evaluating the systems and scope of the project, which will be brought to the Board for approval at the December meeting along with the selected financing option. Today, the Board is asked to adopt a resolution authorizing Washburn to issue bonds to finance all or a portion of this project. This will allow the University to pursue bond financing if it is in the best interest of Washburn. This is simply the first step and gives Washburn authority to issue bonds if the Board chooses. Mr. Lee noted the University has used this process for issuing bonds for the new Law School and the Advisors Excel Hall projects.

Regent Dietrick asked if there could be a blend of options for financing. It was noted that all options are on the table and can be combined. Regent Buhler asked if the project is defined for just the main campus. It was confirmed this project is only for the main campus.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Jeffrey to adopt the Resolution to authorize the University to issue obligations to finance the costs of this project. Motion passed.

VI. Next Meeting Date

A. Board of Regents Meeting – December 4, 2025

VII. Adjournment

Marc Fried reported there were no matters for Executive Session. Regent Sourk moved the meeting to be adjourned and was seconded by Regent Nave. The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents