

**WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 5, 2026**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Dietrick called the meeting to order at 3:32 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 Duncan  
Regent Fisher  
Regent Jeffrey  
Regent Nave  
Regent Romero  
Regent Sourk (via Zoom)

**III. Officer Reports**

**A. Chair's Report**

Chair Dietrick welcomed the Board's newest regent, Mayor Spencer Duncan, and congratulated him on his recent appointment as Mayor. The Chair noted the March Board meeting has been moved to March 23, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the Kansas Room. On Tuesday, February 10, President Mazachek will be recognized as Executive of the Year at the Sales and Marketing Executives Banquet at Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center beginning at 5:30 p.m. Congratulations to President Mazachek.

**B. President's Report**

President Mazachek welcomed Mayor Duncan to the Board and looks forward to working with him on the Board and in the community. Washburn is celebrating its 161<sup>st</sup> Birthday and are hosting the Washburn Day of Giving. Events today began with the Ichabods of Industry which featured Regent John Dicus and Tammy Dishman with Capitol Federal. The President thanked Regent Dicus for his presentation and for inspiring everyone in the audience. The President asked Marshall Meek to give an update

on the Day of Giving. Mr. Meek shared at this time they have raised \$270,537 with over 680 gifts.

President Mazachek noted several activities the university recently celebrated. The Cheer Team earned second place at the 2026 Universal Cheerleaders Association National Championship. Enrollment for spring is outstanding. Year over year it continues to grow. The President thanked everyone for their hard work. Next Friday is census and numbers will be reported at that time. The university hosted the Kansas FBLA with over 500 students on campus. The Music and Theatre department welcomed 300 students on campus to attend the Middle School Band Day and Athletics hosted a track meet with 3100 entries and approximately 1,500 people on campus for the meet. The men's and women's basketball teams are outstanding this year.

The President reported a national search for the Vice President for Student Life is underway. The legislative session has been very busy with changes almost every day. The leadership is actively participating, listening, and doing what is best for Washburn.

President Mazachek introduced Melanie Worsley, Associate Provost, and Professor of Academic Affairs, who is leading the AI Task Force.

Professor Worsley shared the members represented on this AI workgroup and provided an update of the progress so far. Their action plan includes a strategy for campus communication, policy examination, creating capacity, and researching common AI tools as well as governance and infrastructure. A target date for these steps to be completed is the end of the spring semester. The task force will continue to work on the governance steps as it will be a longer process. President Mazachek thanked the task force for this important work.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. Consent Agenda**

Motion by Regent Fisher, and second by Regent Jeffrey. Motion passed.

- 1. Approval of Minutes of the December 4, 2025 Meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – October 2025**
- 3. Liquidated Claims Approval – November 2025**
- 4. WUPRM Revision – Policy Section BB**

##### **B. Action Items**

- 1. Honorary Degree Candidates**

President Mazachek presented this item. The university Honorary Degree committee meets yearly and reviews the nominees based on experiences, accomplishments, accolades and the difference they have made in the community and their discipline. Three candidates were recommended: Jim Slattery – School of Law, Tony Ware – College of Arts and Sciences, and Carol Perry – Harmony Hines School of Nursing. President Mazachek recommends the Board approve awarding the three candidates an Honorary Degree.

Motion by Regent Buhler, and second by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

## **2. Eminentes Universitatis**

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. Washburn awards the Eminentes Universitatis designation to long-term employees who meet the following requirements: employed as a technical instructor, staff employee or equivalent for a period of ten years or more, retiring in good standing and service performed must be judged to have been meritorious.

Today we have three employees to honor. Gayle Davis has served in a variety of roles to the Leadership Institute and played a pivotal role in the development of the Aleshire Center. She held leadership roles on Staff Council and the NetWURk group and was also recognized for her service receiving the Staff Outstanding Service Award in 2022. Her greatest contribution, however, was the unwavering support she showed to the students as they pursued their goals. Ms. Davis will retire on May 1, 2026. Mary Gruber retired on February 3, 2026, which was her 40<sup>th</sup> work anniversary. Mary began her career in the Business office and retired working in the Finance office. She became a trusted and invaluable resource across campus for her finance and accounting knowledge. She had a deep understanding of Washburn's FOAPAL structure and was known for her attention to detail. Mark Flynn was a member of the Engineering department at KTWU for over 42 years. His technological skills helped ensure the digital channels and online streams were on-the-air 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for three channels. Mr. Flynn was also a part of the team to start a 24-hour broadcast; helped with the transition from analog to digital; oversaw the building of a new tower; and assisted with the installation of fiber infrastructure on campus. Mr. Flynn retired on January 6, 2026. President Mazachek recommends the Board bestow the status of Eminentes Universitatis to these three employees.

Motion by Regent Romero, second by Regent Jeffrey. Motion passed.

## **3. Tennis Complex Naming**

President Mazachek presented this item and described the process for the naming of colleges, schools, buildings and other physical facilities on our campuses. In August 2025, the Board approved the Athletics Corridor Master Plan which included upgrades to the tennis complex. Last fall, Washburn Alumni Jake and

Kris Klima made a transformational gift to the corridor project in support of the Washburn tennis program. The couple met as students at Washburn and were active in the Greek community. Kris, a standout athlete, earned All-MIAA recognition for her achievements on the women's tennis team from 2001-2004, and she continues to champion the university today as a member of the Washburn Alumni Association and Foundation Board. Tennis provided the opportunity Kris needed to be the first person to attend college in her family and their gift to the tennis program honors Kris' family, Ruben and Sylvia Castillo. The Castillo family moved to Topeka after Kris and her sister, Alyssa, finished their college tennis careers at Washburn and built their lives in Kansas. The Klima's gift exceeds the threshold for naming recognition that Washburn uses for naming facilities on campus. The President recommended the Board consider naming Washburn's tennis complex the Castillo Family Tennis Complex.

Motion by Regent Dicus, second by Regent Buhler. Motion passed.

#### **4. Washburn Tech Technical College Operating Grants**

Provost Fritch presented this item. Due to a change in legislation, KBOR is requiring universities to submit an application describing how the funding will be used for the Technical College Operating Grant prior to approval. Washburn Tech plans to continue using these funds to upgrade and enhance classrooms, laboratories, and equipment at our newly remodeled space at the former K-Mart building. The university wants the Board to be aware of the plan before they submit it to KBOR. President Mazachek recommends the Board approve the use of the Technical College Operating Grant, if provided by the legislature, as outlined in this plan.

Motion by Regent Buhler, second by Regent Romero. Motion passed.

#### **5. Washburn University Refunding and Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2026**

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and explained this resolution authorizes the final issuance of revenue bonds to finance the ESCO project. Since the last board meeting, Moody's credit rating agency affirmed Washburn's A1 rating. Several positive comments include diversification of assets, steady growth trends and overall stability.

Michael Newman from Hilltop Securities shared the bonds were brought to market on January 21 in total amount of \$24,195,000. All bonds were sold, indicating an extremely high level of interest and confidence from investors. Stifel is serving as the underwriter for revenue bonds. Stifel's team was able to bring in new investors. The interest rate for the newly issued bonds is 3.62%. This resolution approves the final bond package as described in this item and

authorizes the University and partners to finalize the issuance on the bond closing date of February 12, 2026.

Mitch Walter, the university's bond counsel from Gillmore and Bell, thanked Luther and his team for their assistance in this process. He noted it is extremely rewarding to work with his team, especially as an alum of Washburn.

Motion by Regent Dicus, second by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

## **6. Resolution for Authorization of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool Transactions**

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and noted Kacie Jones, Assistant Controller, recently joined the accounting team. The approval of this item will allow the new employee authorization to initiate university transactions with the State of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool. Deposits to and withdrawals from the University's MIP account must be initiated and authorized by employees approved by the Board. President Mazachek recommends adoption of the attached resolution.

Motion by Regent Romero, second by Regent Jeffrey. Motion passed.

## **V. Informational Presentation**

### **A. Healthcare Center Project Design**

Eric Just, Assistant Vice President of Facilities, presented the new design for the Healthcare Center project. The project was approved by the Board in May of 2025. The goal of the project is to bring together the university's health-related departments on campus to one facility. Mr. Just shared a diagram of the layout for each floor as well as photos of the exterior. It is budgeted at \$55,000,000 and will add 80,000 additional square feet to the existing building. It will house the School of Nursing, School of Applied Studies, Kinesiology and Student Health. It is estimated to be an 18-month project and a construction start date is pending the completion of fundraising.

Regent Sourk asked about the location of Student Health being in the center without an exterior entrance. Mr. Just explained it was design layout practicality, and it will be able to have the waiting area located inside their suite. Regent Sourk also inquired about allowing room for growth as technology advances. Mr. Just noted that the design includes several wide-open spaces that could be utilized differently in the future.

## **VI. Information Item(s)**

### **A. FY26 Quarterly Financial Statements**

**VII. Next Meeting Date**

**A. Board of Regent Meeting – March 23, 2026**

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

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Marc Fried  
Secretary, Board of Regents