

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
May 7, 2026

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Dietrick called the meeting to order at 3:31 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 Duncan
Regent Dietrick
Regent Fisher
Regent Jeffrey
Regent Nave (via Zoom)
Regent Romero
Regent Sourk

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Dietrick shared he is looking forward to the Commencement ceremonies next week. He thanked the Executive and Governance Committee for their work on the shared governance policy, as well as all the staff that contributed. Great work all around.

B. President's Report

President Mazachek highlighted recent achievements on campus. Washburn's head tennis coach, Kirby Ronning, was named Coach of the Year for the third consecutive season. Washburn's women's golf head coach, Ronnie McHenry, earned MIAA Women's Co-Coach of the Year honors. He led the Ichabods to their first home tournament victory at Firekeeper Golf Course, along with two runner-up finishes this season.

Washburn Tech hosted their 26th Annual Car Show on May 1. Laird Noller Ford donated a brand-new mustang that experienced hail damage. The students in the

automotive program will get the opportunity to fix it. Several celebrations on campus include the annual Employee Recognition Celebration. This event recognizes the hard work of the faculty and staff across campus. The President's concert will be held tomorrow night. After commencement, the campus will welcome a unique art collection as part of the Washed Ashore project. The campus is one of six sites across Topeka to host this exhibit, featuring zoo animal sculptures constructed from recycled plastic. As summer approaches the university is preparing for summer camps and New Student Orientations.

President Mazachek introduced Kate Coulter, outgoing President of WSGA, who provided an overview of student government including fall and spring events. WSGA experienced a leadership transition in December when Vice President Ryan Durst graduated, and Lillian Clark stepped into the Vice President role. The new WSGA President is Caleb Newfer and Lillian Clark will continue to serve as Vice President.

President Mazachek introduced Jim Schnoebelen the Chair of Faculty Senate. Jim reported it was a productive year for Faculty Senate. They added new programs and deleted others and reviewed and approved five new changes to the faculty handbook. The Faculty Senate served as a venue for various presentations including student media, website accessibility, Kansas laws, AI task force and CTEL. Jim is proud of the work of the Shared Governance Task Force team. He noted his appreciation of the Board's work and the cooperation of leadership and staff. Jim was re-elected last week to serve as the Faculty Senate President for next year.

President Mazachek introduced Lori Hutchinson and Dr. Stephen Terry to provide an update on the Kansas City Marketing campaign. Ms. Hutchinson highlighted the five phases of the campaign. They have received more than 16,000 visits to the university's webpage. They launched the KC Yard Sign project with President Mazachek placing yard signs at alums homes. They delivered KC spirit boxes which included Washburn goodies to alums in the KC area.

Dr. Terry noted this program could not be successful without all those in the room working together. They have seen a 47% growth in key market areas. Applications increased to 865 in the Fall of 2025 and direct from high school growth of 43%. Transfer students have been steady with modest growth. A video was shared highlighting the efforts and exciting events that have taken place this past year in Kansas City.

C. Committee Report(s)

1. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Buhler reported that the committee held their second meeting and received a wealth of information. Provost Fritch highlighted promotion and tenure, faculty review, sabbatical, and curriculum and development processes. Dr. Clouch

shared Student Life activities currently happening for the students as well as WSGA activities. Employee Wellness is now on the Tech campus. The update helped the committee better understand how the university cares for the students.

IV. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of Minutes of the March 23, 2026 Meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – February 2026**
- 3. Liquidated Claims Approval – March 2026**

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

B. Action Items

1. Shared Governance

President Mazachek presented the Board policy on Shared Governance. The Board's Executive and Governance committee prepared the first draft and then moved it to the Shared Governance Task Force. After recommended revisions, the revised policy statement was distributed across campus for feedback. The Task Force reviewed and considered all feedback, and a revised draft was finalized by the President and then sent to the Board's Executive and Governance committee for final review.

President Mazachek recommends the Board approve the Shared Governance Policy statement for the Washburn University Policies, Regulations and Procedures Manual.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the Shared Governance Policy statement. Motion passed.

2. Eminentes Universitatis

Melanie Worsley, Associate Provost, presented this item. Washburn awards the Eminentes Universitatis designation to long-term employees who have been employed as a technical instructor, staff employee or equivalent for a period of ten years or more, retire in good standing, and their service performed is judged to have been meritorious. The university has two employees they are honoring today.

Nancy Province started in Kinesiology Department in 2003 and served as office coordinator and the contact person for the Kinesiology Department. She was

widely recognized for her knowledge, personable style, and willingness to help others. She will retire on July 7.

Lori Rognlie started at Washburn in 1995 in the Social Work Department and moved to Mabee Library in 2000. As a library assistant she began working with physical materials when libraries were focused on physical resources and then became an expert in processing them. President Mazachek recommends the Board bestow the status of *Eminentes Universitatis* to Nancy Province and Lori Rognlie.

Motion by Regent Dicus and second by Regent Romero to approve the *Eminentes Universitatis* recommendations. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Faculty Handbook Termination Procedure: Section G

Melanie Worsley, Associate Provost, presented this item and noted the Board of Regents approved the Faculty Tenure Termination Procedure in December 2024. A separate section pertaining to Faculty Disciplinary Review Committee, Section G, outlines the procedures and logistics for convening such a committee. This section was reviewed by the Faculty Handbook Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee in 2024. It has now been reviewed and recommended by the Faculty Senate and General Faculty in April. President Mazachek recommends the Board approve the addition of Section G.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the addition of Section G in the WUPRPM. Motion passed.

Regent Duncan left at 4:25 p.m.

4. New Program – Bachelor of Arts in Sport and Event Media

Melanie Worsley, Associate Provost, shared the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Sport & Event Media is a program developed by the departments of Mass Media and Kinesiology to meet growing interest and strong workforce demand in sports media and event management. The program is designed to prepare students for a wide range of careers. President Mazachek recommends the Board approve the addition of the Bachelor of Arts in Sport and Event Media.

Motion by Regent Romero and second by Regent Buhler to approve Bachelor of Arts in Sport and Event Media. Motion passed.

5. New Certificate A – Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry and Culinary Arts, Savory Cuisine

Melanie Worsley, Associate Provost, presented this item for two new certificates in Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry and Culinary Arts, Savory Cuisine. This revised curriculum structure better supports our post-secondary students and

aligns with workforce needs while supporting the overall program enrollment. President Mazachek recommends the Board approve the addition of a Certificate A in Culinary Arts Baking and Pastry and a Certificate A in Culinary Arts Savory Cuisine.

Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Fisher to approve these two new certificates in Culinary Arts. Motion passed.

6. New Program – Certificate in English to Spanish/Spanish to English Translation

Melanie Worsley, Associate Provost, presented this item and explained this proposal would establish a 12-credit hour Certificate in English to Spanish /Spanish to English translation. The certificate provides a practical, workforce credential for degree-seeking students, as well as community members. It also creates a pathway for those pursuing a professional certification as a translator. President Mazachek recommends the Board approve the addition of the Certificate in English to Spanish/Spanish to English Translation.

Motion by Regent Dicus and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the Certificate in English to Spanish/Spanish to English Translation. Motion passed.

7. Inactivation of the Bachelor of Science, General Science

Melanie Worsley, Associate Provost, presented this item. The Bachelor of Science, General Science program has experienced consistently low enrollment with only five graduates since 2015. President Mazachek recommends the Board approve the inactivation of the Bachelor of Science, General Science.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Romero to approve the inactivation of the Bachelor of Science, General Science. Motion passed.

8. Inactivation of the Master of Education Reading Specialist

Melanie Worsley, Associate Provost, noted the Master of Education Reading Specialist program is proposed for inactivation following the Board's approval of the Master of Education in the Science of Literacy at the March Board meeting. There are no students currently enrolled. President Mazachek recommends the Board approve the inactivation of the Master of Education Reading Specialist.

Motion by Regent Romero and second by Regent Dicus to approve the inactivation of the Master of Education Reading Specialist. Motion passed.

C. Information Item(s)

1. Quarterly Financial Analysis March 30, 2026

V. Next Meeting Date

A. Board of Regent Meeting – June 11, 2026

VII. Adjournment

Regent Sourk moved the meeting to be adjourned and was seconded by Regent Nave.
The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.