

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
June 11, 2026

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Dietrick called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. in Convocation Hall of the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were:

Regent Buhler
Regent Dicus
Regent Dietrick
Regent Duncan
Regent Fisher
Regent Jeffrey
Regent Nave - Absent
Regent Romero
Regent Sourk

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Regent Dietrick shared he and President Mazachek will participate in a panel with Paul Friga for Inside Higher Education. They will be discussing governance and strategic frameworks in higher education. The Board Retreat will be held August 12. Today's meeting is the last meeting for John to serve as the Chair of the Board. He shared his appreciation of serving and collaborating with the Board members, President Mazachek, and Washburn leadership.

B. President's Report

President Mazachek noted the Graduation ceremonies all went well and most ceremonies had a full house. This past weekend the university hosted the Mulvane Art Fair. It is a long-standing successful event on campus with many talented artists showcasing their work. The Sunflower Music Festival will launch on June 19 for 8 days of fantastic music with musicians from around the world.

President Mazachek introduced and welcomed the newest member to her leadership team. Dr. Kimberly Chestnut is Washburn's Vice President of Student Life. Dr. Chestnut brings a deep commitment to student well-being and support on campus. She previously worked at the University of Wyoming.

The President shared Washburn Ichabod Athletic Department recorded its highest standing of the Learfield Directors' Cup at 9th place out of 300 schools. This is after last year's record 15th place finish. Congratulations to Washburn's Athletic Director Loren Ferre, the coaches and all the student athletes. Tomorrow is the Ribbon Cutting for Cosmetology at Washburn Tech North. They will be open following the ribbon cutting.

President Mazachek recognized John Dietrick for his leadership the past two years serving as Chair. The Board achieved so much during this time thanks to his direction and support.

C. Committee Report(s)

1. Finance and Capital Strategies Committee

Regent Sourk reported the committee met on May 19th and had a final review of the budget. Details will be presented by Vice President Lee during the meeting.

2. Compliance, Audit and Risk Committee

Regent Romero noted the committee met today prior to the Board meeting. The audit process has begun. Ruben Brown will once again prepare the audit for Washburn. The committee heard a report on student athlete insurance and received good news on Property Insurance renewal rates for Washburn. Both items will be presented today to the full board.

3. Executive and Governance Committee

Regent Dietrick reported the committee met on May 19 and discussed Board nominations for 2026-2027. The committee nominated Regent Sourk to serve as Chair and Regent Romero as Vice Chair. Regent Sourk has longevity on the Board and is very involved at Washburn. Regent Romero brings a wealth of information from the community and lots of excitement to the Board.

IV. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of the May 7, 2026 Meeting

2. Nomination of Board Officers

- 3. Committee Appointments for the Board of Regents**
- 4. Proposed Washburn University Board of Regents' Meeting Date for 2026-2027**
- 5. FY27 Public Rate and Public Budget – Publish Notices of Hearings**
- 6. Liquidated Claims Approval – April 2026**

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

B. Action Items

1. Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget – Washburn University and Washburn Institute of Technology

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and thanked his team comprised of Debbie White, Teresa Lee, Rhonda Thornburg, and Andrea Lagos. He shared the key priorities in budget planning are growth, people, campus and operational efficiencies. The key development assumptions include a 3.5% increase in tuition, a salary program, support for approved scholarship initiatives, reserve for capital projects and allow for inflationary expenditures. There was a collaborative effort to be more efficient in setting a balanced budget.

Vice President Lee noted all courses under the CEP program will be moved to Washburn Tech in the Fall of 2026, to secure future reimbursement payments from the State. Tech is experiencing changes in their budget with the reductions from State funding. The Washburn General Fund is increasing \$5.2 million over last year's budget. Almost 75% of the increase is for salary programs and scholarships.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Romero to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 operating budgets for Washburn University and Washburn Institute of Technology of \$131,002,365 and \$17,934,929 respectively. Motion passed.

2. Fiscal Year 2027 Washburn Tech Capital Expenditures

Vice President Lee presented this item and explained, similar to the item submitted in March for Washburn capital expenditures, this item lists capital projects for FY27 for Washburn Tech. The total budget for capital expenditure is \$1,041,000 which is a 50/50 split from Capital Outlay State Aid and from required matching funds.

Motion by Regent Dicus and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the proposed expenditures from the FY 27 Washburn Tech Capital Outlay funds. Motion passed.

3. Athletic Corridor Project

a. Design Services for Football Locker Room, Plaza and Pathways

Vice President Luther Lee noted this item will be presented by Eric Just, Assistant Vice President Facilities Services. Mr. Just explained the project was approved by the Board last August and noted it was best to split it into two projects of design services for the Football Locker Room, Plaza and Pathways project and Design Build Services for the Tennis Complex.

Mr. Just noted Washburn issued an RFP for the Football Locker Room, Plaza, and Pathways and received proposals from nine design firms. A team from Washburn reviewed the proposals and interviewed four firms to evaluate the contractors' experience with similar projects, their team members, their interview presentation, and cost of their services. Washburn recommends Ampere Design to be awarded the design services contract for this project. Ampere Design is focused on athletics facilities, and their team members have significant experience with locker rooms and plaza areas.

Motion by Regent Fisher and second by Regent Dicus to approve the Design Services contract for the Football Locker Room, Plaza and Pathways to Ampere Design in the amount of \$165,000. Motion passed.

b. Design Build Services for Tennis Complex

Eric Just, Assistant Vice President Facilities Services, presented this item and shared the University determined the most efficient method of achieving the goals of the Tennis Complex project would be to engage a Design-Build contractor. Washburn issued an RFP for the Tennis Complex and received proposals from four contractors. The top two ranked contractors were interviewed. A committee from Washburn evaluated the proposals based on contractor's experience with similar project, the team members, their interview responses, and estimated cost of their services.

Mr. Just reported Washburn recommends awarding the contract to Tarkett Sports Construction. Tarkett has significant experience with tennis complexes nationwide and is the official tennis surface of the MIAA. They offer a 50-year structural warranty and a ten-year surface warranty. Both Athletic Corridor projects will be privately funded.

Motion by Regent Romero and second by Regent Buhler to approve the design-build contract for the Tennis Complex to Tarkett Sports Construction for costs up to the total project budget of \$3,000,000. Motion passed.

3. Student Athlete Insurance Renewal

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and shared Washburn's policy requires student athletes to have primary insurance to participate in University Athletics. The University also maintains a secondary insurance policy to cover costs for injuries sustained during practice or competition. This also helps with costs not covered by the student's primary insurance.

Chuck Howze, Senior Vice President of Collegiate Sports for Dissinger Reed, a division of HUB International, gave a report to the Compliance, Audit and Risk committee earlier today. It was noted he met with companies who provided an analysis for the years 2020-2024 and the claims loss ratio is 115% which has consistently exceeded the aggregate deductible for each year. Dissinger Reed has proposed a renewal package for 2026-27 with an Aggregate Deductible of \$305,000, an increase of \$55,000 from our current year plan. It offers the lowest cost compared to other renewal options. If approved, Dissinger Reed will bind the renewal with Zurich for an August 1, 2026 effective date.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Dicus to approve the Student Athlete Secondary Insurance renewal package as proposed by Dissinger Reed, with a policy carried by Zurich American Life Insurance and claims paid by Bob McCloskey Insurance, including hard costs of \$73,000 and claims account funding ranging from the recommended \$152,550 to the plan maximum of \$305,000. Motion passed.

4. Property Insurance Renewal

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and introduced Mark Wilkerson, Senior Vice President with IMA Corporation. Mr. Wilkerson shared IMA worked with APIP to develop aggressive pricing targets. The final renewal rate of \$783,657 is a 13% rate decrease from Washburn's current rate of \$868,036. This rate reflects the effectiveness of their proactive marketing approach and their ability to capitalize on the current market conditions. Based on claims history and the current provider's desire to keep Washburn as a customer, the total premium for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 operating budget will be \$783,657.

Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the property insurance policy at the renewal cost of \$783,657. Motion passed.

V. Next Meeting Date

A. Board of Regents Retreat – August 12, 2026

B. Board of Regents Meeting – September 10, 2026

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Dicus to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 p.m.
Motion passed.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents