

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
September 15, 2022

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Dietrick called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were: *Mrs. Buhler, Mr. Dicus, Mr. Dietrick, Mr. Romero and *Mrs. Sourk.

* Participated via Zoom protocol.

III. Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing

Vice Chairperson Dietrick described the process that would be followed and then declared the hearing open for public comment at 4:04 pm. Mr. Dietrick then asked if anyone present wished to speak at the open hearing. Secretary Fried announced no one had signed up to speak in advance. With no one responding to Mr. Dietrick's question, he closed the hearing at 4:05 pm.

Regent Beck arrived at the close of the public hearing but before any motion was made.

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

Regent Beck – abstained as he was not present when the public hearing was opened.
Regent Buhler – aye
Regent Dicus – aye
Regent Dietrick – aye
Regent Romero – aye
Regent Sourk - aye

IV. Fiscal Year 2023 Public Budget Hearing

Vice Chairperson Dietrick described the process that would be followed and then declared the hearing open for public comment at 4:10 pm. Secretary Fried announced that no one had signed up to speak at the hearing. Mr. Dietrick then asked if anyone present wished to speak at the hearing. No one responded. Mr. Dietrick closed the public hearing at 4:11 pm. It was moved by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Beck to approve the budget as published. Motion passed with all votes in favor with Regent Dicus abstaining.

Regent Buhler leaves the meeting 4:12 p.m.

V. Approval of Minutes of the June 23, 2022 and August 18, 2022 meetings

It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2022 and August 18, 2022 meetings. Motion passed.

VI. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Vice Chairperson Dietrick reported. Regent Dietrick said he did not want to take any fire away from President Dr. Farley's report, but he did need to say that the U.S. News and World Report stated that Washburn was the best regional university in the State of Kansas.

Mr. Dietrick noted that Washburn was hosting the Tilford Conference on October 6 and 7 to address the issues of diversity and multiculturalism and it is open to the public.

Vice Chairperson Dietrick stated that following in Regent Beck's footsteps, athletics is doing well.

Regent Dietrick stated that this is Dr. Farley's last meeting as President of Washburn University. He thanked Dr. Farley for his work and listed the events scheduled on campus to celebrate Dr. Farley's legacy. Mr. Dietrick encouraged everyone to attend the events.

B. President's Report

President Farley stated how strange it was that this was his last board meeting to attend as President, stating he has never missed a meeting in all his years as President. Dr. Farley worked with many board members over the years and he always appreciated the way board members have been prepared for meetings and thanked everyone for their support.

Dr. Farley welcomed new board member Angel Romero. President Farley said he had met Angel before he first attended Washburn and that Regent Romero will represent Washburn well.

Dr. Farley welcomed John Dicus as a new board member. President Farley said he met him early on in his Presidency as he called on Mr. Dicus for a gift to the University. It was the first gift Dr. Farley received. Dr. Farley indicated Regent Dicus would also represent Washburn well.

President Farley reported U.S. News and World Report performed a rigorous research into the information, and Washburn is very pleased with the report.

Dr. Farley then talked about enrollment. Still under the information embargo imposed by Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), he can discuss that direct from high

school enrollment is up from last year. Additionally, 48% of new students on campus are first-generation students.

President Farley then discussed his meeting with KBOR at their annual summer retreat. The retreat is geared towards the six KBOR institutions, but Dr. Farley is given an opportunity to meet with the KBOR chair and vice chair to discuss what Washburn is doing.

President Farley stated that work is beginning on next year's budget to submit to the legislature. KBOR submits a unified budget for all higher ed institutions and Washburn is supportive of this process. KBOR intends to address salaries given issues with inflation.

Dr. Farley discussed Family Day weekend that is coming up. Families are invited to attend a picnic and other events and siblings can stay with their older brother/sister on campus

President Farley advised that the Career Fair was in Lee Arena and it was filled to capacity. 140 businesses and over 800 students attended. There were also several schools present to discuss their graduate programs.

Dr. Farley then said a new exhibit at the Mulvane Art Museum where people with colorblindness can wear special glasses to help them see all of the colors in art. Like all other exhibits at the Mulvane, it is free and open to the public.

President Farley then announced that Marshall Meek will be Interim President beginning Oct 1, saying he and Meek have been meeting regularly so things won't fall through the cracks. Dr. Farley congratulated Mr. Meek on his new position.

President Farley then closed with a statement about the opportunity to serve Washburn. Dr. Farley never had a bad day. He wished some things would have resulted differently, but always had fun and has many good memories. President Farley stated that Washburn will always hold a special place for himself and Susan. He emphasized that the success of Washburn has been due to the faculty, students and staff that have made Washburn so great.

Chairperson Dietrick again thanked President Farley for his service

VII. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

It was moved by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

As approved by action of the Board:

- 1. Liquidated Claims Approval – June 2022**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – July 2022**

3. Faculty/Staff Personnel Actions

Recruit for vacant position User Services Administrator effective September 15, 2022 at an annual salary of \$58,682.

B. Action Items

1. Health Plan Renewal

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee presented the item. Mr. Lee stated that the employee benefits committee met with Watco Benefit Group to develop a proposal for the 2023 medical and dental insurance plan. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas estimates a 17% increase in costs, but the proposal will have no increase on the employee portion of the premiums for the sixth year in a row, due to the sufficiency of funds in the health care reserve. The committee also recommends maintaining the six levels of employee premium contribution based on salary level.

Responding to a question about elimination of the carry over provision, Greg Watkins from Watco said that the provision is a very unique provision in the market place, so would be a best practice to remove.

In response to another question, the Board will be voting to approve both health and dental coverage. It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the renewal of the medical and dental insurance plan. Motion passed.

2. Renewal of Casualty Insurance Policies

Vice President Lee presented the item. This is for renewal of casualty insurances. IMA, serving as Washburn's broker, worked with Philadelphia to develop a very good package for this year. When comparing last year to this year, removing increases in square footage and automobiles owned, it would actually be a 3% reduction in premiums. Mr. Lee then introduced Mark Wilkerson from IMA, who thanked Dr. Farley for the last 21 years Wilkerson has been working with Washburn.

Brett Taylor from IMA then presented the item. Mr. Taylor stated the total premium is up but rate charged overall is lower. Regent Dietrick commented that IMA waived its fee on insurance.

Mr. Taylor said that the biggest issue in this package is cyber coverage. AIG, the current carrier for this type of coverage, increased premiums by 60%, which is common in the higher education market. A competitor is Resilience, which is a tech company. Their base coverage is \$31,000, which is a significant reduction in premiums. There is an additional \$25,000 in the plan for a package to help continue to address weaknesses to protect against ransomware.

Responding to a question regarding any potential for decreasing costs for cyber coverage, Mr. Taylor said higher education is one of the top three targets for hacking and ransomware because of all the information held for employees, students and health. Working with Resilience, they can help address vulnerabilities and slack in the system so they can reduce the additional package fee, but that reduction would not show up for another two or three years. Mr. Taylor noted that traditional insurance companies came into the market several years ago and with low premiums. After a few years and many losses, they have left the market. Insurance tech companies are now doing great work to improve systems so they can then reduce costs of coverage.

In response to a question about the limitation on coverage for ransomware, Mr. Taylor noted that Resilience has the same limitation. Resilience sees some weaknesses that Washburn is attempting to address with a grant from KBOR. The cost of coverage could be reduced with changes. Brett also noted that the retention for the Resilience coverage is \$75,000 while AIG's is \$100,000. If Washburn continues to perform well in this area, there could be an increase in the coverage amount in future years.

Answering a question about their insurance rating, Mr. Taylor noted that Resilience has an A+ rating like AIG. It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the renewal of the casualty insurance policies. Motion passed.

3. Expenditures over \$50,000

a. Intercollegiate Sports Accident Insurance – Ratification

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee presented this item for ratification of the renewal of this insurance plan for our sports program. The renewal period began September 1 for coverage for the current season, so he received authorization from the Board chair to move forward to ensure coverage of our athletes during their activities and we are now seeking ratification. Vice President Lee stated that premiums will increase as will the stop loss level. It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Dicus to ratify the purchase of the Intercollegiate Sports Accident Insurance. Motion passed.

b. Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center Infrastructure

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer, Luther Lee presented this item. The computer infrastructure and cabling for the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center needs replacement. Only one bid was received and the recommendation to the Board is to award the contract to the bidder. Funding for the project comes from the previously approved capital budget.

Responding to a question about if it is unusual to get just one bid, Mr. Lee stated that pre-pandemic the answer would be yes, but with supply chain and employment issues, receiving a single bid on some projects is occurring

more often. Vice President Lee added that when only one bid is received, an internal assessment is conducted to determine if the bid is reasonable for costs. It was moved by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the contract. Motion passed.

c. Mulvane Art Building – HVAC Remodel Project

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee presented the item. The current HVAC system is designed with water pipes running through the walls and ceiling. There have been several leaks in the last few years, coming close to affecting art. Updates performed in 2011 did not resolve the issues long term. The goal is to complete this work in early 2024 in advance of the 100th anniversary of the Mulvane Art Museum. The project will be \$1,800,000 and funded from reserves and capital fund.

Answering a question about the reserve fund, Mr. Lee stated there is a healthy balance. He added that at the next meeting, he will present a report that will provide detail that will explain and show the sufficiency of funds.

Responding to a question if the museum staff was involved because of the invasive work, Vice President Lee stated that they were involved.

In response to a question about the amount being an estimate and can that change, Mr. Lee said the cost of the project includes some contingency for additional costs if they arise. It was moved by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Beck to approve the Mulvane HVAC remodel project. Motion passed.

At this time Regent Sourk announced that she would need to leave the meeting in about 15 minutes, which would then leave the Board without a quorum. Discussion was had about how sufficient detail was provided in the agenda items to understand the items and that bundling some of the items together would help move the process faster.

d. Replacement of Yager Stadium Sneed Track Re-Surfacing Project C23011

It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Romero to approved replace the track at Yager Stadium without presentation. Motion passed.

e. Washburn Institute of Technology Mannequins

It was moved by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Romero to bundle items VII.B.3.e,f, g and h. Motion passed.

It was moved to approve purchase of Mannequins and Diesel Engines and change orders for the Building G HVAC units and the Sterile Processing Remodel project, all at Washburn Institute of Technology by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Sourk. Motion passed.

- f. Diesel Engines for Diesel Technology Program**
- g. Washburn Tech – Building G HVAC Units Change Order**
- h. Washburn Tech – Sterile Processing Remodel Change Order**

- i. New Law School Dole Plaza Sculpture**

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee noted that funding for this program is completely from private funds. It was moved by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the sculpture for the Dole Plaza at the new Law School. Motion passed.

- j. Hanover Research Engagement Renewal**

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Laura Stephenson presented this item for renewing this contract for research. Dr. Stephenson stated this is custom research for potential projects at Washburn. The current contract is expiring and the cost will be going up 5%. Vice President Stephenson stated we can have two research projects going at the same time. Dr. Stephenson added that past research helped develop strategies for academic programs and enrollment. It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the renewal of the contract for research services. Motion passed.

- k. Undergraduate Enrollment Services**

Executive Director of Enrollment Management Richard Liedtke presented the item. Dr. Liedtke stated last year the Board approved this partnership with EAB. EAB's work resulted in an 18% increase in applications, and the breakeven goal was 42 students. Director Liedtke noted that the total number of students that resulted from this work was 86, so that doubled the goal amount. Dr. Liedtke stated that he would discuss the current enrollment numbers in more detail after the data embargo is lifted by KBOR. It was moved by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Beck to approve the agreement for undergraduate enrollment services. Motion passed.

Chairperson Dietrick announced the rest of the agenda will be continued.

It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Dicus to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents