

**WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 2, 2023**

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**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Buhler called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

**II. Roll Call**

Present were: Mr. Beck, Ms. Buhler, Mr. Dicus, Mr. Dietrick, Mr. Hulse, Mr. Nave, Mr. Romero, and Mrs. Sourk.

**III. Approval of Minutes of the December 8, December 13, December 14, December 20, December 26, 2022 and January 11, 2023 meetings**

It was moved by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the Minutes of the December 8, December 13, December 14, December 20, December 26, 2022 and January 11, 2023 meetings. Motion passed.

**IV. Officer Reports**

**A. Chair's Report**

Ms. Buhler was honored to introduce Dr. Mazachek as the first woman President at Washburn.

Ms. Buhler thanked Marshall Meek for his service as Interim President

Chair Buhler announced that there would be a Budget and Finance Committee meeting before the next regular board meeting.

**B. President's Report**

Dr. Mazachek said she was truly honored to be your President. President Mazachek thanked to Board for their trust in hiring her. She also thanked the search committee for selecting the right person. Last, Dr. Mazachek thanked the faculty and staff for work done to keep Washburn moving during the process.

President Mazachek introduced Interim Director of Enrollment Management Dr. Alan Bearman and stated she was thrilled when he was appointed interim. Dr. Bearman stated a few years ago, Dr. Mazachek told him to raise graduation rates when they were at 36%. Today, the graduation rate is at 54%. Dr. Bearman stated such a rate is outstanding for an open admission institution. He further stated that he

cannot brag enough on faculty and staff for the work that was done across campus because the graduation rate does not increase by 18% over six years without everyone being involved.

Regent Padilla arrived at 4:07 p.m.

Dr. Mazachek added that the graduation rate puts us above the other Kansas regional universities even though we are open admission.

Dr. Bearman stated that enrollment management has been refining processes. Some of these changes involve having more people to work with families to proactively help them figure out how to afford attending Washburn, and having staff go to the high schools to enroll students in the Concurrent Education Program (CEP) and make sure they are aware the college credit is coming from Washburn.

Dr. Bearman noted that on April 1, an earlier than usual New Student Orientation (NSO) will be held for scholarship students to get them enrolled early. Dr. Bearman said that high school GPA is the best factor in determining student success, so the scholarship grid was adjusted to rely only on GPA.

Dr. Bearman advised that the department is working on Shawnee County as directed by the Board. Last year Washburn received a total of 406 applications to attend Washburn from Shawnee County students. This year applications from Shawnee County are at 569. Admission counselors/recruiters are going back to the schools to follow up with those applicants.

Dr. Bearman reported many more proposals are in the works to present to President Mazachek. One other new initiative will be contacting Washburn employees and the Board to send in names of prospective Ichabods and admissions and recruitment will contact them.

President Mazachek then introduced Marshall Meek, President and CEO of the Washburn University Alumni Association and Foundation to talk about the 6<sup>th</sup> annual day of giving. Mr. Meek said the event has seen growth each of last six years. Mr. Meek stated that the success of the event begins and ends with quality of projects from across campus; from adopt a turtle to international travel opportunities. Gifts today come from 40 of 50 states. At the time of his report, 654 donors had made \$190,000 of donations. Mr. Meek advised, compared to last year, the gifts were tracking a bit ahead in dollars donated and a bit behind in number of donors.

Foreshadowing for next month, Dr. Mazachek said a mid-term review is being conducted for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation, and the Board will get a strategic review of programs and activities.

Lastly, Dr. Mazachek noted that her first two days have been full of events. The first day was opportunities to meet many people, students, faculty and staff at both Washburn and Washburn Tech. She heard high expectations from many people. The second day was spent at the legislature and she met many people who care about Washburn and want to help. President Mazachek stated she gave testimony to the

House Commerce Committee talking about how Washburn supports workforce development, supports businesses and responds to the needs of employers. Washburn Tech Dean Mike Strohschein, Small Business Development Center Director Karl Klein, and Business School lecturer Rick LeJuerne were involved with the presentation.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Sourk to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed. As approved by action of the Board:

- 1. Liquidated Claims Approval – November 2022**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – December 2022**

#### **3. Faculty/Staff Personnel Actions**

Hire: Janene Freerksen, full-time Assistant Director, Student One-Stop, effective February 1, 2023 at an annual salary of \$52,162; and full-time open position Event and Communications Specialist, Music/Theatre Department, effective February 3, 2023 at an annual salary of \$30,327.

#### **4. Amendment to 2022-2023 Board of Regents Meeting Dates**

Change the September 21, 2023 Washburn Board of Regents meeting date to Thursday, September 14, 2023.

### **B. Action Items**

#### **1. Washburn University Policies, Regulations, and Procedures Manual – Section E. Benefits**

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee presented the item. This is a change recommended from the faculty diversity and inclusion committee that Juneteenth be observed as a paid holiday. It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dietrick to add Juneteenth as a paid holiday. Motion passed.

#### **2. Washburn University Policies, Regulations, and Procedures Manual – Section E. Benefits**

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee presented the item. This change allows the employee benefit for education assistance to apply immediately when hired and not have a waiting period. It was moved by Regent Beck and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the change in the education assistance benefit. Motion passed.

**3. Washburn USW Local 307L-4 Memorandum of Agreement**

Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Luther Lee presented for approval the Memorandum of Agreement with United Steelworkers. Mr. Lee thanked Marc Fried, Teresa Lee, Janel Rutherford and Eric Moss for their work on this. Vice President Lee reported the Union approved the agreement last week. Mr. Lee noted that this is a one-year agreement and the salary increases should help with recruitment and retention. Vice President Lee reported there is sufficient money in the current budget for February 1 through June 30, 2023.

Answering a question about how the agreement increases the budget, Mr. Lee stated that there will be no increase to the current year's budget, but there will be a \$57,000 increase for FY'24.

It was moved by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Sourk to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with United Steelworkers. Regent Nave announced he would abstain. Motion passed.

**4. Master of Arts in Communication and Leadership (MACNLE) Admission Standards Revision**

Vice President for Academic Affairs Laura Stephenson presented the proposal to quicken the application process for graduate programs by reducing the burden on students applying. The process is tiered so the higher the GPA, the less needs to be submitted.

Regarding a question about if the Board already took action on this item, Dr. Stephenson advised it was on last meeting's agenda but was pulled. It was moved by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Padilla to approve the revision to the admission process for graduate programs. Motion passed.

**5. Honorary Degree Candidates**

President Mazachek presented the item and reported there is an honorary degree committee that reviews the considerations. The persons being put forward have been reviewed and recommended for Honorary Degrees by the committee: Marla Luckert, School of Law, Doctor of Law L.L.D.; Blanche Parks, School of business, Doctor of Public Service D.P.S., Susan Farley, School of Applied Studies, Doctor of Humane Letters, L.H.D., and David Woods, College of Arts and Sciences, Doctor of Music D.Mus. It was moved by Regent Hulse and seconded by Regent Dietrick to award Honorary Degrees to the nominees. Motion passed.

**6. President's Agreement Ratification**

Marc Fried, General Counsel, reported there are some final items being reviewed and likely to have a completed agreement in next week or two. A special meeting will be called to ratify the agreement at that time.

**C. Presentation(s)**

**1. Programs Washburn Offers at the Correctional Institutions**

Vice President for Academic Affairs Laura Stephenson introduced Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Ball and Dean Mike Strohschein to present.

It was moved by Regent Nave and seconded by Regent Sourk to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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Marc Fried  
Secretary, Board of Regents