

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
December 7, 2023

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Buhler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were:

Ms. Buhler
Mr. Dicus
Mr. Dietrick
Mr. Fisher
Mr. Nave
Mr. Romero
Mrs. Sourk

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Buhler thanked everyone for an amazing and historic year!

B. President's Report

President Mazachek shared the women's soccer team beat Adelphi University in the semi-finals and the team is officially in the Division II National Championship. They will play on Saturday at 11:00 am central. Win or lose, what an amazing year they had, and the University will celebrate them next week.

President Mazachek introduced the new Dean of Washburn Tech, Scott Smathers. Washburn is thrilled he has joined our team.

President Mazachek shared an update on the provost search. The University hosted four candidates last week and the President is gathering feedback and will make a decision in the next few days.

President Mazachek provided an update on the Strategic Framework. The original plan was to bring the plan to the Board at this meeting. In November, the committee

realized they needed to expand the time to gather more information. They will hold one more session with the Board in January and will meet with faculty, staff and student leaders and plan to bring a proposal to the Board in February.

President Mazachek reported the University has launched a new NE Kansas advantage scholarship. The key reasons are that the impact the Thrive scholarship made in Shawnee county has been tremendous and other counties reached out to see if it could be offered to students in their area. It will mirror our merit scholarship already in place and will greatly impact students in our region.

President Mazachek introduced Tonya Ricklefs, President of Faculty Senate, to give an update. Dr. Ricklefs shared that she has a Washburn undergraduate degree and a Master of Social Work. She noted the faculty have been busy this semester implementing Gen Ed changes. The Faculty Senate is getting creative with acquiring feedback from faculty and students and are working closely with WSGA President, Antonio Martinez. Professor Ricklefs thanked everybody in the Senate for their hard work this semester.

President Mazachek introduced Connie Gibbons, Director of Mulvane Art Museum. Connie Gibbons has served as Director for the past 11 years. In January the museum will turn 100 years old, 1924-2024. Ms. Gibbons thanked the Board of Regents for approving and supporting the renovation of the museum. This allows them to take care of the museum as well as the storage of over 6,500 objects. It is currently closed but is slated to reopen in May 2024. The new design was the source of much pride locally.

Ms. Gibbons shared highlights of the museum such as the Blitt Gallery, the Mulvane Art Fair, special classes for students, outreach programs in the community for children and schools, partnerships across the community as well as with sister museums, and much more. The museum averages 30,000+ visitors a year.

President Mazachek reminded everyone that next week is Graduation, her favorite time of the year.

IV. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dicus to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the October 19, 2023, Meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – September 2023**

3. Liquidated Claim Approval – October 2023

B. Action Items

1. Sabbatical Approvals

Laura Stephenson, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented this item stating that one of the important ways we can help faculty in their professional development is through academic sabbaticals. The paid sabbatical is typically a semester in length and is for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. Only full-time faculty who have been full-time teaching for at least six years are eligible. The maximum number of sabbaticals granted in a particular year shall be equal to 4% of the faculty. The School of Law School awards up to two sabbaticals in a particular academic year.

It was moved by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Dietrick to approve the Academic Sabbaticals. Motion passed.

2. Enroll 360 Renewal

Alan Bearman, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management and Dean of Student Success and Libraries presented the item. Dr. Bearman stated that the University has a contract with EAB for Enroll 360. This suite of services and products provides significant recruiting advantages for the institution. It provides Enrollment Management with a sophisticated database to track trends and track by schools and counties.

Dr. Bearman shared that renewing at this time offers Washburn significant discounts and avoidance of the forthcoming price increases going into effect at EAB in 2024.

It was moved by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Nave approve the renewal of Enroll 360. Motion passed.

3. Bachelor of Criminal Justice – Criminal Justice

Dr. Laura Stephenson shared this is a new program proposed by the Criminal Justice Department. This program is one that will allow students to pursue a more general framework in Criminal Justice.

Dr. Zach Frank, Dean of the School of Applied Studies explained that students have been asking for this, especially those in rural areas due to the demand in the job market. This program will enhance what we already have in place.

It was moved by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Fisher to approve this program. Motion passed.

4. Bachelor of Criminal Justice – Forensic Investigation Sciences

Dr. Laura Stephenson shared that this program will provide a new pathway utilizing existing faculty and courses, but will add a laboratory component and add a broad scientific basis as well as lab skills. This degree will make our graduates more appealing to the KBI.

It was moved by Regent Nave and seconded by Regent Sourk to approve the program. Motion passed.

5. Associate of Applied Science in Legal Studies

Dr. Laura Stephenson presented this item. This Associate of Applied Science in Legal Studies will equip students with the professional skills needed to work in the legal profession. It is a repackaging of programs in existing AA or AS degrees due to the new Gen Ed framework.

It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

6. Associate of Applied Science – Criminal Justice

Dr. Laura Stephenson noted that adding an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice program will allow Washburn University to be more competitive with other programs in the state.

It was moved by Regent Nave and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the program. Motion passed.

7. Associate of Applied Science – Human Services

Dr. Laura Stephenson stated this program is well suited for individuals seeking employment in mental health or behavioral health. This is an area showing growth in employment opportunities. Offering an AAS degree in Human Services allows students to take more discipline-specific courses.

It was moved by Regent Fisher and seconded by Regent Nave to approve the program. Motion passed.

8. Certified Logistics Technology (CLT)

Dr. Laura Stephenson shared this is a new 15-credit certificate within the Manufacturing division and in conjunction with the Manufacturing Institute. They will work with the military to help transition into careers outside of the military. The program will be supervised by a program coordinator and will be provided primarily online.

It was moved by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Sourk to approve this program. Motion passed.

9. Recital Hall

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. He stated in October 2020, the Board approved proceeding with the design services of a new Recital Hall as an addition on the north side of Garvey Fine Arts Center. Schwerdt Design Group is the architect on the project. They developed a general design to use when issuing the RFP. A bid evaluation committee evaluated the four proposals on a variety of factors and recommended to the Board it be awarded to Crossland Construction. Due to construction cost increases, this estimate is higher than the one we received a few years ago. The total project will not exceed \$8 million and will be funded with \$5 million from private and \$3 million from University reserves.

It was moved by Regent Buhler and seconded by Regent Sourk to award the bid to Crossland Construction. Motion passed.

10. 1731 Plass Construction Manager

Vice President Luther Lee stated that in March 2023, the Board approved the capital project to refresh the 1731 Plass Building for the relocation of the University Library. This is a multi-year project to be completed and funded in phases.

Eric Just, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Services noted this is the first phase of the interior refresh. Next will be the building mechanical upgrade and then the overall grand master plan with new façade. When Schwerdt Design Group started creating the design, they quickly realized the need for new restrooms, new interior finishes, new doors, and an upgrade to existing IT. To meet the July 1, 2024, deadline, Washburn decided to engage a Construction Manager to work on a cost-plan basis. Washburn issued an RFP for the Construction Manager firm for the project. Washburn recommends Senne Company of Topeka, Kansas. This request for approval of \$5.5 million will cover phase one.

It was moved by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Fisher to approve Senne Company for this project. Motion passed.

11. Washburn Institute of Technology Concrete

Vice President Luther Lee stated this project is to repair and replace areas of concrete on the Washburn Tech campus beginning in FY 24 and continuing into FY 25. The University received one bid from Bettis Asphalt and Construction.

Their pricing was compared against recently completed projects on campus and found to be reasonable for the work requested.

It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dicus to award the project to Bettis Asphalt and Construction. Motion passed.

12. Pepsi Agreement Extension

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. Washburn began a relationship over 35 years ago with Pepsi. This initial contract has been bid and extended several times. The current contract runs through June 30, 2024. Several key factors for requesting an extension to this contract are the positive experience with Pepsi, the card readers they provide to campus, the giveaways at athletic events and Pepsi donations at campus events which total approximately \$1 million.

It was moved by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Romero to approve the extended contract to Pepsi. Motion passed.

C. Informational Items

1. Quarterly Financial Analysis Report

D. Presentations

1. CyberSecurity Program

John Haverty, Chief Information Officer, ITS, presented a PowerPoint update. The University provides training for all employees in security awareness. The University had a 63% completion rate last year. They are discussing ways to improve this percentage and are working with supervisors.

Mr. Haverty stated there has been a huge increase in compromised accounts in the past two months, especially student accounts. The University will use state funding for phased deployment of multi factor authentication, implement more tabletop exercises, provide security assessment with all vendors, and risk management assessments.

Recommendations for changes include a second position for security.

VI. Executive Session

Chair Buhler moved the Board recess for an executive session for 30 minutes after a 5-minute recess to clear the room.

Regent Sourk seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting moved into executive session at 5:05 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 5:40 p.m., executive session ended and returned to open session. Chair Buhler moved that the Board go back into executive session for 5 minutes for the same reasons and justification as before. Regent Sourk seconded the motion. Motion passed at 5:40 p.m. At 5:48 p.m. the executive session ended and returned to the open session.

VII. Next Washburn Board of Regents Meeting – Thursday, February 1, 2024

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Romero to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents