

**KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
QUARTERLY MEETING**

***** Meeting Was Conducted in Person and by Teleconference *****

November 28, 2023

10:00 a.m. EDT

**Board of Regents Room
Julian M. Carroll Academic Services Building, 2nd Floor
400 East Main Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(Primary Physical Location)**

MINUTES

I. Call To Order

The Board's Chair, Regent Tammi Dukes, called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

II. Roll Call

The Board's Secretary, Zachary Atwell called the roll:

Regent Tammi Dukes, Chair	Present
Regent Michael Adams, Jr., Vice Chair	Not Present
Regent Edward Fields	Present
Regent Ernie Fletcher, MD	Present
Regent Edward Hatchett, Esq.	Present
Regent Jason Moseley	Not Present
Regent Charles Moyer, PhD	Present
Regent Robert Ramsey, Sr.	Present
Regent Herman Walston, EdD	Present
Regent Savion Briggs	Present

Eight (8) Regents were in attendance and present at roll call. A quorum was therefore established.

III. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Regent Fletcher:

Move the Board to approve the agenda of the November 28, 2023, quarterly meeting of the Board of Regents.

Seconded by Regent Fields and passed without dissent.

IV. Information Items

A. CPE Updates

Dr. Aaron Thompson, President of the Council on Postsecondary Education, and Mr. Travis Powell, General Counsel of the Council on Postsecondary Education, presented this agenda item.

Dr. Thompson began by stating how much he enjoyed working with KSU's President, Dr. Akakpo, and thanked him for being a partner in the endeavor between CPE and KSU.

CPE's budget was presented to the Kentucky General Assembly, requesting an inflationary adjustment to the budget for all campuses, as well as an increase in the performance funding pool and monies for capital improvements. If approved, CPE will ensure that KSU receives its fair share. CPE also requested additional funds to support KSU's needs as its campus improves and programs expand.

Dr. Thompson noted that President Akakpo has been an active presence at the Capitol and very engaged on behalf of the University. Further, he commented that the KSU climate and culture is changing for the better. Dr. Thompson recognized that KSU does not yet have enough money; however, he sees that things are moving in the right direction and stated that CPE will work with the University to help build back the facility and human infrastructure to a level needed to reach the desired outcome.

Dr. Thompson then turned the presentation over to Mr. Powell, who addressed the Management Improvement Plan ("MIP"). Progress has increased and most deliverables from the last quarter were timely completed. Mr. Powell was pleased that the University is on a positive trajectory.

Chair Dukes queried whether Mr. Powell had any concerns or observed obstacles to reaching KSU's goals.

Regent Fletcher inquired whether a formula was used to determine how monies for improvements would be distributed between universities if the increased amount was, in fact, granted in the budget. He also asked whether specific requests for funding to assist with specific facilities in dire need of repair or renovation were being considered, above and beyond those funds generally allotted to the University for capital improvements.

B. President's Report

Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo, President, presented this agenda item. President Akakpo opened by explaining the University's past, the University's current situation, and its projected future. President Akakpo also discussed the University's current student enrollment, fall midterm grades, fall enrollment by residency, retention rates, degrees/credentials awarded, graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratio, Fall 2023 course offerings and the Fall 2023 advising scheme. He further provided a breakdown of financially/not financially enrolled students and the Fall 2023 housing report.

Next, he shared institutional and non-institutional aid metrics, as well as end of term balances for the past five (5) years. Overall, KSU ended the last fiscal year with a deficit of approximately \$2.76M. To date, KSU has spent approximately 30% of the FY 24 budget.

In conclusion, President Akakpo presented short-term goals moving forward, including balancing the budget, continuing to enhance the University's institutional control system, growing enrollment, and developing a new strategic plan which he would like to present to the Board no later than June 30, 2024. Additional areas of focus will include academics and academic realignment, enrollment management, fiscal enhancement and control, and alternative funding.

Regent Fletcher thanked President Akakpo for his presentation, and queried whether there was a plan for training students, staff and faculty to realize that they are all part of the University's marketing plan.

Regent Fields inquired whether students who are not currently paying would be able to seek financial assistance from the Foundation.

Regent Walston posed a question regarding students who receive financial aid and work study.

Regent Hatchett thanked President Akakpo for his presentation.

C. Senate Reports

i. Faculty Senate Report

This agenda item was presented by Dr. Helen Smith, Faculty Senate President. Dr. Smith reported that the Faculty Senate held seven (7) meetings this semester and described the accomplishments and works of each Committee. She also shared faculty concerns including high exhaustion, low morale, and understaffed academic programs. The Faculty Senate keenly anticipates updates regarding hiring replacement faculty and understaffed programs, the faculty salary study, faculty evaluation, and the status of the frozen tenure and promotion process.

Chair Dukes thanked Dr. Smith for her presentation.

ii. Staff Senate Report

Ms. Keymia Herve, Staff Senate Treasurer, presented this agenda item, noting that she is the highest ranking and sole remaining Staff Senate officer. The last Staff Senate meeting was held September 21. Ms. Herve is working with University stakeholders to hopefully schedule an election prior to the Winter Break in December.

Ms. Herve reported that communication between faculty, staff and administration remains a challenge. Future Staff Senate initiatives include collaborating with various departments and administration to address workplace culture and increased professional development opportunities for University staff members, as well as more events to boost staff morale including employee recognition programs. The Staff Senate also would welcome opportunities to explore community service and engagement to showcase their commitment to social responsibility. Finally, Ms. Herve stated that the Staff Senate is committed to fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment that contributes to the overall success of Kentucky State University.

iii. SGA Report

Regent Savion Briggs, SGA President, presented this agenda item. He reported that many student-related issues that he had expressed concern about in prior meetings are now being addressed. KSU's SGA officers and members have been collaborating with SGA's on other Kentucky campuses to better understand the climate and culture of students on campus.

Regent Briggs noted that overall students recognize that many changes are occurring and are glad to feel that there are people [faculty and staff] who they can trust. Students are also grateful to be moving forward and experiencing some of the long-anticipated changes being made.

D. Presentation on Website Updates

Mr. Tyler Madison, Director of Marketing, presented this agenda item. Mr. Madison explained upcoming changes to the website's content and design, anticipating that website content will be updated within the next five to six weeks. The online campus map and virtual tour will be revised as well.

Mr. Madison also shared design mock-ups for KSU's new website, as well as examples of other university websites designed by the web hosting company with whom Mr. Madison is working. By using design templates offered by this company, the University can significantly reduce some of the development-related costs while expediting the process. Overall, the new website will focus on telling KSU's story to prospective students.

Regent Walston inquired how often the new website (and online campus maps) will be updated.

President Akakpo observed that the University's existing website is not ADA compliant. Mr. Madison replied that the new site will be 100% ADA compliant.

Regent Hatchett asked whether Mr. Madison had access to information regarding current users of KSU's website, and if so, how those analytics were informing the new website plan.

As to Mr. Madison's description of the new web site as a recruitment tool, Chair Dukes queried whether people who viewed the website would also receive pop-up ads and targeted marketing for the University.

E. Master Plan Presentation

Ms. Jennifer Linton, Director of Capital Planning and Facilities Management, presented this agenda item. Ms. Linton introduced the Master Plan team including Ms. Krista VanHoutteghem of Hanbury Associates and Mr. Eric Zabilka, President of Omni Architects.

Mr. Zabilka introduced the Campus Master Plan, then turned the presentation over to Ms. VanHoutteghem.

Ms. VanHoutteghem shared the project timeline and scope of work, discussed requests made by campus stakeholders, and summarized Master Plan goals. Ms. VanHoutteghem stated that

the space needs analysis incorporated the University's goal of a future enrollment of 3000+ students on campus, both in residential offerings and classroom facilities.

Ms. VanHoutteghem identified existing campus building renovation and demolition candidates and shared a land use strategy for the future. Next, she explained short, midterm and long goals, noting that a comprehensive plan does not happen all at once.

Regent Moyer queried whether KSU currently requires freshmen to live on campus or would institute that requirement in the future.

Regent Hatchett inquired whether any of KSU's campus buildings were on the National Register of Historic Places.

At this point, Chair Dukes stated that the agenda could be amended since this was a regularly scheduled Board meeting, then called for a motion to amend the agenda to include the Master Plan as an action item.

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Board to amend the agenda of the November 28, 2023 Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents to include the Master Plan as an action item.

Seconded by Regent Walston and passed without dissent.

Next, Chair Dukes called for a motion to approve the Master Plan as presented.

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Board to approve the Master Plan as presented.

Seconded by Regent Walston and passed without dissent.

F. Engineering Program Presentation

Dr. Scott Wicker, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, presented this agenda item and introduced Ms. Lisa Gomperts with Schmidt Associates. Ms. Gomperts shared an update regarding the new engineering and robotics program and building renovation and reiterated the process and timeline for this project. The anticipated cost to renovate Carver Hall to accommodate the new engineering and robotics program is \$13.8 million. Much of that cost is needed to address the building's deferred maintenance needs. Funding to begin the project has already been secured.

Next, Ms. Gomperts described the existing Carver Hall floorplan and explained the proposed floorplan. She also identified other existing campus facilities that could be utilized to house various components of the engineering and robotics program.

Ms. Gomperts noted that a phased renovation approach was the most feasible for Carver Hall with completion estimated for the end of 2026. She also shared renderings of labs, the engineering office suite, and a concept image of a makerspace/fabrication shop.

It is anticipated though that the engineering program could launch in the Fall 2024 semester. If the plan is approved, Phase 0 can begin immediately.

Regent Fletcher posed a question to Regents and President Akakpo regarding the recruitment of faculty for the new engineering and robotics program.

Following Ms. Gomperts' presentation Dr Wicker discussed the new Engineering school's programmatic needs and timeline.

Regent Fletcher asked whether there was a plan to involve the manufacturing industry during the program planning phase to ensure that the curriculum aligns with economic development needs within the state.

At this time, the Board took a 30-minute recess for lunch.

G. Update on AGB's Student Success Project

Following the Board's lunch break, Academic Affairs Vice Provost Wicker and Dr. Stephanie Mayberry, Vice Provost, Student Affairs presented this agenda item beginning with a PowerPoint entitled "Governing Board Plan for Equity in Student Success (GBESSA)." Dr. Wicker and Dr. Mayberry outlined a strategic agenda covering the scope of work, key milestones and deliverables, and discussed a playbook for higher education governing boards and senior leaders.

Dr. Wicker explained deliverables to be completed by the Board, while Dr. Mayberry discussed deliverables to be completed at the institutional level including a student survey. Ideas to incentivize students to complete the survey were considered.

Chair Dukes queried whether students could only access the survey link through an email.

Regent Walston asked how long it would take for students to complete the assessment and whether students would receive a confirmation once the survey was completed so they would not be required to retake it.

H. Discussion on the Creation of a Standing Athletics Committee

Chair Dukes presented this agenda item and directed Regents to the memo provided in their Board materials.

Regent Fields expressed strong support for a standing Athletics board committee. Chair Dukes concurred.

Regent Moyer inquired whether the University currently had any type of athletics committee and further delved into the committee's function and composition of committee members.

The Board agreed to continue the discussion of this agenda item at a later date.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Dukes presented this agenda item, identifying meeting minutes as:

- A. September 21, 2023 Special Called Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
- B. September 22, 2023 Special Called finance & Audit Committee Meeting Minutes
- C. September 25, 2023, Special Called Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
- D. September 27, 2023, Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes
- E. October 18, 2023, Special Called Investment & Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes
- F. October 18, 2023 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes

Chair Dukes asked if there was any discussion of any Minutes contained in Agenda Items V. (A-F). Hearing none, Chair Dukes requested a motion to approve all Minutes as submitted.

MOTION by Regent Ramsey:

Move the Board to approve all Minutes from prior Board and Committee meetings as submitted.
Seconded by Regent Briggs and passed without dissent.

Therefore, all Minutes were approved under one motion.

VI. Action Items

A. Approval of Revisions to the Gold Book

This agenda item was presented by Chair Dukes.

MOTION by Regent Moyer:

Move the Board to approve the Gold Book revisions.
Second by Regent Ramsey and passed without dissent.

B. Approval of the Schedule of Board Meetings

Attorney Atwell presented this agenda item, stating that schedules for Quarterly meetings as well as Committee meetings were under consideration.

As to the quarterly meeting schedule, after much discussion the Board agreed on dates for the January, April and July 2024 quarterly meetings and agreed to table the date of the October meeting until Homecoming dates were confirmed. The quarterly meeting dates agreed to were January 26, 2024, April 19, 2024, and July 19, 2024.

MOTION by Regent Moyer:

Move the Board to approve the January, April, and July 2024 quarterly meeting dates.
Second by Regent Ramsey and passed without dissent.

C. Approval of the Schedule of Committee Meetings

Attorney Atwell presented this agenda item, noting that the MIP requires the Board to approve the committee meeting schedule before December 31. He suggested tabling this item until Board members had reviewed their calendars, then holding a special call meeting prior to December 31 to set the committee meeting schedule.

Chair Dukes agreed; therefore, this agenda item was tabled for a later date.

VII. Approval of Policies and Policy Actions

A. Behavioral Code of Conduct

B. Academic Code of Conduct

C. Zero tolerance Policy

D. Policy on Deposits to the Kentucky State University Foundation, Inc.

E. Policy on Disbursements from the Kentucky State University Foundation, Inc.

F. Policy on Philanthropic Donations from Faculty and Staff

G. Policy on Internal Endowment Agreements

- H. Endowment Investment & Spending Policy**
- I. Contract Management Policy**
- J. Space Management Policy**
- K. ESA and SA Policy**
- L. Ethics Hotline Policy**
- M. Study Abroad Policy**
- N. Domestic and International Exchange Policy**
- O. Collections Policy**
- P. Revocation of Temporary Telecommute Policy**

This agenda item was presented by Chair Dukes, who stated that the Endowment Investment & Spending Policy (Item VII.(H)) was being withdrawn from this agenda and tabled for a later meeting. Subsequently, she called for a motion to amend the agenda:

MOTION by Regent Fields:

Move the Board to amend the agenda to remove item VII.(H) (Endowment Investment & Spending Policy) from the agenda.

Second by Regent Fletcher and passed without dissent.

Following the vote to remove the Endowment Investment & Spending Policy from the agenda, Chair Dukes called for a discussion of any policy remaining on the agenda. Regent Fields noted a typo in the Behavioral Code of Conduct and requested that it be corrected.

Regent Fields inquired how the new policies would be communicated to faculty, students, and staff. Dr. Mayberry and Attorney Atwell responded to the question.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Dukes clarified the policies under consideration for approval (Agenda items VII.(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,I,J,K,L,M,N,O, and P)).

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Board to approve the policies included in agenda item VII. (A,B,C,D,E,F,G,I,J,K,L,M,N,O and P).

Second by Regent Moyer and passed without dissent.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Blazer Library Renovations**
- B. Approval of Bradford Hall Renovations**
- C. Approval of Combs Hall Renovations**
- D. Approval to Increase the Demolition Project Budget**
- E. Approval of Building Modifications for the Engineering Program**
- F. Approval of Hume Hall Renovations**
- G. Approval to Sell or Dispose of Old Federal Building as Surplus Property**
- H. Approval to Sell or Dispose of Vehicles as Surplus Property**
- I. Approval of Expenses Incurred Through Personal Service Contract with People Link, LLC**
- J. Approval of One-Year Contract for Ellucian finance Operational Support Services**
- K. Approval of Pending Personnel Actions**

L. Approval of Board Resolution Authorizing the Addition of Michael R. DeCourcy as a Signatory for the Kentucky State University endowment

These agenda items were presented by Chair Dukes, who opened the floor for comments or questions regarding any of the specific items.

As to agenda item VIII.(G), Regent Walston noted that renovations and repairs to the old federal building had been performed with federal funding, and queried whether that would affect the University's ability to sell or dispose of the property.

Regent Fields requested a timeline for each proposed renovation.

Regent Walston inquired into the feasibility of donating vehicles included under agenda item VIII.(H) to a non-profit agency.

Regent Walston sought additional information regarding item VIII.(K), pending personnel actions. Chair Dukes directed him to the Board Book materials, and Attorney Atwell provided further clarification.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Dukes listed all items to be included under the motion to approve (agenda items VIII.(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K, and L)) then called for a motion to approve all items.

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Board to approve the Consent Agenda.

Second by Regent Ramsey and passed without dissent.

IX. Closed Session

A. Pending and Possible Litigation (KRS 61.810(1)(f))

At this time, the Board moved into a closed session to discuss litigation matters, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f).

MOTION by Regent Walston:

Move the Board enter into closed session.

Second by Regent Briggs and passed without dissent.

X. Possible Public Action(s)

When the Board reconvened from its closed session, Chair Dukes stated that no action was taken in closed session and called for a motion to enter into open session.

MOTION by Regent Walston:

Move the Board to enter into open session.

Second by Regent Moyer and passed without dissent.

XI. Closing Remarks

Chair Dukes thanked Regents, University faculty and staff, KSU alumni and the Frankfort community for their continued commitment and support and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION by Regent Briggs

Move the Board to adjourn.

Seconded by Regent Moyer and passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Zach Atwell, Board Secretary
Kentucky State University
Board of Regents

Regent Tammi Dukes, Chair
Kentucky State University
Board of Regents



Approved with no corrections

Approved with corrections