

**KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

***** Meeting Was Conducted in Person and by Teleconference ***
September 21, 2023
12:30 p.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 Committee's Chair, Regent Herman Walston, called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Regent Herman Walston, Chair	Present
Regent Charles Moyer	Present
Regent Savion Briggs	Present
Regent Ernie Fletcher, M.D.	Not Present

At least three (3) committee members were in attendance and present at roll call. A quorum was therefore established. The Board's Chair, Regent Tammi Dukes, and Vice-Chair, Regent Michael Adams, Jr., also were present.

Note: Regent Fletcher joined the meeting shortly after the roll call.

III. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Regent Moyer:

Move the Board to approve the agenda of the September 21, 2023, special called meeting of the Board of Regents' Academic Affairs Committee.

Seconded by Regent Briggs and passed without dissent.

IV. Information Items

A. Academic Realignment and Reorganization of University's Colleges

This agenda item was presented by Dr. Michael D. Dailey, Interim Provost of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Scott A. Wicker, Interim Vice Provost of Academic Affairs. Dr. Wicker began the Academic and Student Affairs Update, explaining that actions taken to date have been driven by

data. He further noted that the faculty evaluation performance discussion would be tabled for a future meeting.

Dr. Wicker explained that the University's current academic structure includes two colleges: the College of Agriculture, Community and the Sciences, and the College of Humanities, Business and Society. The proposed restructure would realign and reorganize the University's two existing colleges into three colleges (College of Agriculture, Health Sciences, and Natural Resources; College of Arts and Sciences; and College of Business, Engineering, and technology (BET)), and would provide a Center for Adult Learning and Government Relations.

Chair Walston asked whether the proposed reorganization would be staffed by individuals already working at KSU or would require additional funding to fill positions in the College of Business, Engineering and Technology.

Chair Walston also queried whether the new Engineering program would be a four-year program. President Akakpo responded affirmatively.

As to the new School of Engineering and Technology, Regent Moyer inquired how broad the School's curriculum and programs were expected to be.

Chair Walston asked whether engineering programs offered by other HBCUs had been considered while planning KSU's engineering program.

Regent Dukes inquired into the timeline for implementation of each phase shared by Dr. Wicker.

Chair Walston asked President Akakpo whether the upper or lower portion of Bell Gym would be used for the Engineering program.

Regent Briggs wondered if most of the volleyball games would be moved to Exum in the event that Bell Gym was used for the Engineering program.

Regent Adams requested Dr. Wicker and President Akakpo to discuss the University's vision for becoming a center for adult learning.

B. Update on SACSCOC Response

This agenda item was presented by Provost Dailey and Vice-Provost Wicker. Dr. Wicker invited Dr. Tierra Freeman Taylor to share the SACSCOC response update.

Dr. Freeman Taylor reported that the University's response deadline has been extended into October. Progress on updating and sending the supplemental addendum has been going very well. The final draft of that addendum will be submitted to the President on October 9 before it is then sent to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. The University's team will be attending the annual SACSCOC meeting from December 2-5. Dr. Freeman Taylor outlined three potential outcomes to the KSU's SACSCOC response.

Chair Walston queried whether there was a timeline to complete all deliverables in order to avoid sanctions, whether Dr. Freeman Taylor had been able to locate all of the required documentation on campus, whether there was a timeline for having the University's policies in place, and whether campus partners had cooperated with Dr. Freeman Taylor's requests for information.

Regent Hatchett inquired whether Board members would have an opportunity to review the final SACSCOC response in advance of being asked to vote on it at a meeting.

Regent Dukes sought clarification as to the timing of the audited financials.

Chair Walston asked the University's Acting General Counsel, Zach Atwell, whether the Board would need to meet and approve the University's response prior to its submission to SACSCOC.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Walston thanked Dr. Freeman-Taylor for her presentation.

C. Academic Appeals Process

This agenda item was presented by Provost Dailey and Vice-Provost Wicker. Prior to this presentation, Dr. Wicker clarified the process by which Regents could review the SACSCOC response via the Workspace platform prior to its submission.

Dr. Wicker began the update by noting that the academic appeals process will be revamped over the next several months to bring it into alignment with the University's protocols and processes. He also described changes that would be made prior to bringing the revised process to the Board for its approval.

Regent Briggs asked whether the academic appeals committee would convene over the summer. Dr. Wicker responded affirmatively.

Chair Walston inquired whether there would be a mechanism to track where failures were originating from.

Regent Moyer queried how many students qualified for graduation during the last semester but are still unable to graduate because their account charges have not been cleared.

D. Update in Management Improvement Plan

Next, Vice-Provost Wicker presented the Management Improvement Plan Update, reporting that the Department of Academic and Student Affairs is working closely with CPE to close out some of the fourth quarter objectives and is in the process of completing Q1 objective 4.9.1. Dr. Wicker reminded Committee members that everyone needs to be working on the objectives for this quarter, as they would be included in the SACSCOC response. Dr. Wicker pointed out that CPE's review serves as an external mechanism (as required by SACSCOC) for validating KSU's corrective actions taken as a result of the APA audit.

Regent Walston sought clarification regarding whether the University would retain its own external validator or if one would be assigned to KSU. Dr. Wicker replied that CPE already has an external evaluator, Moss Adams, as part of their review mechanism.

E. Discussion on KUMA, Honors Program Re-Engagement and Promotion

Vice-Provost Wicker provided an update regarding the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work, Liberal Arts, and Honors Collegium. Dr. Wicker discussed proposed transitions that would promote better coordination with market value and improved services.

Chair Walston asked Dr. Wicker to expand upon the Honors Collegium, specifically asking whether it would involve a specific set of courses, and which students would be able to participate in the program. President Akakpo explained how the revised honors program would differ from the previously offered honors program.

F. Update on Program Offerings, Student Enrollment, and Full- and Part-Time Faculty

Next, Vice-Provost Wicker provided a high-level wrap-up trend analysis of program offerings and student enrollment/retention/graduation data, explaining that detailed Excel files would be distributed to Regents.

Regent Dukes requested Dr. Wicker to explain the difference between the slides related to degrees and credentials and student graduation rates.

Chair Walston queried whether current program completion requirements complied with a previous directive that the University restructure its programs so they can be completed with 120 credit hours, and how that requirement meshed with some certificate completion requirements. Dr. Wicker responded that one of the Management Improvement Plan objectives was to minimize the complexity of the University's curriculum.

Dr. Wicker also discussed a high-level trend analysis regarding full-time faculty. Chair Walston requested that Dr. Wicker address the difference between 9-month and 12-month faculty members as well as overload faculty, and how these differences are reflected or captured within the data. Dr. Wicker replied that faculty distinction was an area in which efforts are currently underway to clarify faculty rights and responsibilities, per Management Improvement Plan requirements.

Chair Walston asked whether faculty member salary changes due to temporary administrative appointments or other assignments were being looked into. President Akakpo thanked Chair Walston for raising the issue and assured him that all contracts were being reviewed.

V. Items Recommended for Board Action

Prior to the Committee voting on items recommended for Board action, Dr. Wicker apprised the Committee of all Board action items in a continuous presentation. Further, some action items herein were not discussed in detail prior to the Committee's vote, as they had been presented to the full Board at prior meetings.

A. Strategic Plan for Academic and Student Affairs

MOTION by Regent Fletcher:

Move the Committee to recommend the strategic plan for Academic and Student Affairs to the full Board for approval at the September 27, 2023, quarterly meeting.

Second by Regent Briggs and passed without dissent.

B. Academic Calendar Policy

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Committee to recommend the academic calendar policy to the full Board for approval at the September 27, 2023, quarterly meeting.

Second by Regent Moyer and passed without dissent.

C. Course Schedule Protocol

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Committee to recommend the course schedule protocol to the full Board for approval at the September 27, 2023, quarterly meeting.

Second by Regent Moyer and passed without dissent.

D. Transition to New LMS

This agenda item was presented by President Akakpo.

Regent Briggs queried whether students would also receive training on the use of Canvas.

Regent Moyer asked whether the migration from Blackboard to Canvas would allow faculty members to move materials seamlessly between the two platforms. President Akakpo assured Regent Moyer that Canvas was very flexible and easy to use, and that faculty members would be provided training.

Regent Briggs inquired whether the same training would also be given to students. President Akakpo responded affirmatively.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Walston called for a motion.

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Committee to recommend the transition to new LMS to the full Board for approval at the September 27, 2023, quarterly meeting.

Second by Regent Moyer and passed without dissent.

E. Excel to Accelerate Program: Cohort for College Readiness

This agenda item was presented by Vice-Provost Wicker.

Chair Walston queried whether students would be able to complete a two-year program in liberal studies rather than going through a four-year program.

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Committee to recommend the Excel to Accelerate Program: Cohort For College Readiness to the full Board for approval at the September 27, 2023, quarterly meeting.

Second by Regent Moyer and passed without dissent.

F. Updates to Policies for Faculty Performance Evaluations, University Tenure and Promotion, Post-tenure Review, and Third Year Review

Regent Walston stated that this agenda item was being temporarily tabled and would be presented at a future meeting. Dr. Wicker provided a brief update as to the status of this item.

Regent Walston inquired as to the status of those individuals who are currently up for tenure and promotion. President Akakpo explained his position regarding current tenure and promotion issues.

VI. Adjournment

In closing, Chair Walston thanked Committee members for their participation at the meeting, and thanked Dr. Wicker and Dr. Freeman Taylor for their presentations.

MOTION by Regent Briggs:

Move the Board to adjourn.

Seconded by Regent Fletcher and passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.