

**WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 5, 2022**

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**I. Call to Order**

Acting 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: Ms. Buhler, Mr. Dietrick, Mr. Hulse, Mr. Klausman, and Mrs. Sourk. Mr. Schmidt arrived at 4:10pm, before Item V.B.2.

**III. Approval of Minutes of the March 24, March 30, and April 5, 2022 meetings**

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Dietrick to approve the Minutes of the March 24, March 30, and April 5, 2022, meetings. Motion passed.

**IV. Officer Report's**

**A. Chair's Report**

Regent Buhler announced she was filling in for Chairperson Beck. The end of the year is an exciting time for graduation. Ms Buhler wished everyone the best. Acting Chair Buhler stated that with Dr. Farley's retirement, when Board Chair Beck returns from his trip, the process will begin moving to address the transition including the hiring of search firm and will involve members of the Washburn community as well as the greater community to make sure the Board hears all your voices.

**B. President's Report**

Dr. Farley reminded the Board that Commencement is Saturday with many events going on. These end of year events are mostly for students but also for faculty and staff. Washburn is lucky to have good quality students and please come to any of the events on campus.

President Farley announced that Dr. Laura Stephenson will serve as the interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs. She has been at Washburn for many years and has done an excellent job as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Farley announced that Jeffrey Jackson will be the interim Dean of the Law School.

President Farley also announced that Mike Strohschein is the interim Dean at Washburn Tech and is a candidate for the permanent position.

Dr. Farley informed everyone that Brenda Holiday, Washburn's Softball coach was named MIAA Conference softball coach of the year and Sophomore Jaycee Ginter was named MIAA player of the year.

President Farley announced that the WSGA elections have concluded. The new president is Shayden Haynes and Quinn Leffingwell is the new vice-president.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

Motion by Regent Klausman and second by Regent Hulse to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

Approved by action of the Board:

- 1. Liquidated Claims Approval – February 2022**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – March 2022**

### **B. Action Items**

#### **1. Resolution for Authorization of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool Transactions**

Vice-President for Administration and Treasurer Lee presented. Washburn periodically uses the Kansas Municipal Investment Pool for holding Washburn monies. Due to changes in the VPAT office, additional people are being added to the Investment Pool account to have the authority to make deposits and withdrawals. The people added are Rhonda Thornburgh, Director of Budget Planning and Analysis and Marsha Holmgren, Director of Accounting. Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Dietrick to approve the resolution adding the persons to the Investment Pool account. Motion passed.

#### **2. Washburn University Policies, Regulations and Procedures Manual – Section D. Classification and Compensation**

VPAT Lee presented the item. Currently, 12-month faculty are not eligible to receive additional remuneration for teaching additional credit hour courses. Mr. Lee stated this change in policy would allow procedures to make 12-month faculty eligible to receive remuneration if filling in to replace faculty. Motion by Regent Dietrick and second by Regent Klausman to approve the policy change. Motion passed.

### **3. Personnel**

#### **a. Emeriti**

Dr. Farley presented the item. Three people are to be recognized with the title of Professor Emeritus. President Farley noted he has worked with each of the individuals extensively. Dr. Farley stated that he did not have time to go through all of their accomplishments, but they all have made Washburn a much better place. Motion by Regent Klausman and second by Regent Dietrick to award the title of Professor Emeritus to Dr. Gary Bayens, Dr. Keith Mazachek and Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek. Motion passed.

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

VPAA Mazachek presented the item. Dr. Mazachek noted that two faculty members are seeking a leave of absence. Professor Boyack will be a visiting professor at the University of Iowa. Vice-President Mazachek noted that it is common for law faculty to serve as visiting professors at other law schools. VPAA Mazachek stated three other faculty members are seeking approval of phased retirement plans and one is requesting a leave of absence for one semester for personal reasons. Dr. Mazachek noted the other two items are not related to academics, but those positions do important work at Washburn. Motion by Regent Dietrick and second by Regent Sourk to approve the personnel actions. Motion passed.

### **4. Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art**

Dr. Mazachek presented the item. VPAA Mazachek wanted to recognize the Art Department, which has done much work in the last couple of years reviewing their programs. Dr. Mazachek advised the Board that based on Art Department's work, the Administration recommends Board approval for the creation of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art degree. VPAA Mazachek noted that there will be no fiscal impact with this change. Motion by Regent Hulse and second by Regent Dietrick to approve the creation of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art degree. Motion passed.

### **5. Academic Program Deletions**

VPAA Mazachek presented the item. Dr. Mazachek advised that all but two of the programs/concentrations listed in the agenda item are being replaced by the new program just approved. VPAA Mazachek stated the other two programs currently have no students and anticipate no students.

In response to a question indicating surprise there is no interest regarding child development, Dr. Mazachek answered that the program being deleted is an associate degree and everyone is now getting Bachelor's degrees in the field so no interest in the associate degree program. Motion by Regent Klausman and second by Regent Dietrick to approve the program deletions. Motion passed.

**6. Expenditures over \$50,000**

**a. EAB Student Success Collaborative (Navigate & Academic Planning Technology)**

VPAA Mazachek presented the item. Dr. Mazachek noted that she came before the Board in September 2017 and promised that using the Navigate platform would help with setting up appointments and create more interactions with our students. VPAA Mazachek noted that Navigate is a mobile app that students can use on their phones and it also provides analytics to be able to intervene earlier to help students succeed. Dr. Mazachek noted that Navigate is the technology backbone to which Washburn has added other products. VPAA Mazachek advised Navigate has helped Washburn achieve its on-time graduation initiatives and allowed for coordinated care for students, including having 90% of Washburn's faculty responding with progress reports which is very helpful to allow intervention for students in need..

Dr. Mazachek then asked Dr. Alan Bearman, Dean of Libraries, to assist with the presentation. Dr. Bearman noted Washburn is an open admission university so Washburn meets students where they are. Dean Bearman stated that the course catalog is confusing for our students, particularly first generation students, who make up almost 50% of the student population. Dr. Bearman added that Navigate simplifies the catalog information for the students, and it allows students, faculty and staff to collaboratively develop a plan for the student to graduate on time. Dean Bearman added that one program that has been most successful is the Math Pathways. The program went from 47% passing rate in the 2010-11 academic year to a 73% passing rate in the academic year 2019-2020.

Dr. Bearman noted that one significant barrier for students registering for classes is holds on student accounts, which are all legitimate, but most students don't know about the holds until time to re-enroll. By providing immediate notification of holds through Navigate, Washburn has cut by 37% the amount of time taken to resolve the holds. Dean Bearman advised that Navigate helped to increase student success appointments during the pandemic when other institutions were complaining about lack of communication with students.

Dr. Mazachek requested approval for renewal for another 5 years. Responding to a question as to why five years for the renewal, VPAA Mazachek answered that there is no good answer other than EAB operates in five years agreements and Washburn was comfortable with that.

Regarding a question about possible duplication between this agreement and the services approved in March, such as the adult learner, Dr. Mazachek responded that the services and tools in this agreement are different than those approved in the March Board items. VPAA Mazachek added that adult learners would be able to use the Navigate app when they become students.

In response to a question about if there were additional costs or upgrades during the first contract, Dr. Mazachek answered that there were no additional costs or upgrades during the contract. There was an additional cost when the academic planning technology was developed, but that is included with this agreement. Motion by Regent Dietrick and second by Regent Schmidt to approve the renewal of the EAB contract. Motion passed.

**b. New Sterilization Processing Room Remodel on the Washburn Tech Campus**

VPAT Lee presented the item. At the September 2021, meeting, the Board approved creation of this program. This item will allow for the remodel of facilities to create learning room for the program. Mr. Lee advised that this work will be funded from allocation of HERFF funds.

Responding to a question if these costs were known to the Board when they approved the program, VPAT Lee responded that these costs were known. Motion by Regent Schmidt and second by Regent Hulse to approve the room remodel. Motion passed.

**c. TV Studio Replacement Equipment (Henderson 002)**

Mr. Lee presented the item. VPAT Lee stated this is to replace TV studio equipment in Henderson Hall, which is used by students in mass media, and the equipment is failing. Mr. Lee advised that Washburn is utilizing a consortium contract that was previously bid.

Regarding a question about if Washburn bid the agreement, VPAT Lee responded that the consortium previously bid for this type of service and product and Washburn is able to use the amount bid by the vendor to the consortium. Motion by Regent Klausman and second by Regent Schmidt to approve the purchase of the TV Studio replacement equipment. Motion passed.

**d. Memorial Union Lounge Furniture**

Mr. Lee presented the item. VPAT Lee stated that the furniture, which dates back to the 2001 renovation, is heavily used by students and wearing out. Mr. Lee noted funding for this item was approved in the previous capital funds budget.

A question about contingencies was referred to Eric Just, Director of Facilities Services. Mr. Just answered that the full scope of a project is not always known until meeting with vendors. Mr. Just noted that sometimes the bids come in lower creating excess funds for a contingency. Mr. Just added that if the contingency is not used, those monies are put in a separate fund to use for other expenses, such as roof repairs.

Answering a question if the contingency covers prices that rise due to inflation, VPAT Lee stated prices will not go up in this case because prices are locked in.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Hulse to approve the purchase of furniture for the Memorial Union. Motion passed.

**e. BTAC Convocation Hall AV Upgrade**

Mr. Lee presented the item. VPAT Lee advised this item is for installation of an integrated AV system in convocation hall. Mr. Lee noted that Washburn will be using a previously bid State of Kansas award and that funding comes from the previously approved capital improvements fund. Motion by Regent Klausman and second by Regent Dietrick to approve the Convocation Hall AV upgrade. Motion passed.

**f. Library Subscriptions**

VPAT Lee presented the item. Mr. Lee stated this is the annual renewal of library subscriptions. VPAT Lee advised these exceed \$50,000 on annual basis and they allow students to have high quality digital information. Mr. Lee stated these are sole source contracts and all are paid out of the Library's operating budget.

Responding to a question about if reducing the number of books would work for the library like it is for the new law school, Dr. Bearman responded the library has reduced physical books by 50% since he started as the Dean of Libraries. Motion by Regent Schmidt and second by Regent Hulse to approve the renewal of digital subscriptions for the library. Motion passed.

**g. Law School Building - Furniture**

VPAT Lee presented the item. Mr. Lee stated this item is to purchase and install furniture for the new law school building. VPAT Lee stated an evaluation matrix was established and used in evaluating the proposals. Mr. Lee advised several sources of pricing were utilized including Kansas state contracts and that funding is in law school building budget.

In response to a question about the original allocation in the law school budget and what is the status of the budget for the whole project, VPAT Lee advised the original allocation was for \$1.4M so purchase is below the budgeted allocation. Mr. Lee advised that for the budget for the whole project, there is still a significant contingency balance remaining and the project is still on schedule for completion this year. A request was made to provide an update on the law school building budget at the next meeting. Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Dietrick to approve the purchase of furniture for the law school. Motion passed.

**h. Veterans Memorial Monuments**

VPAT Lee presented the item. Mr. Lee stated this item will replace and expand the Veterans' Memorial monuments near Morgan Hall. VPAT Lee advised the new monuments will list names of all 42 Washburn students who served in

Vietnam. Mr. Lee indicated the project is supported entirely by private funding. A poem in support of the item was provided to the Board by a member of the audience and Regent Hulse read the poem aloud. Motion by Regent Dietrick and second by Regent Schmidt to approve the purchase of the Veterans Memorial monuments. Motion passed.

**i. ESports**

VPAT Lee presented the item. Mr. Lee noted that the Board previously approved purchase of computers and technology service for the esports program, and this request is for additional items to support the program, including furniture and installation of equipment. VPAT Lee stated funding comes from Maintenance of Effort funds.

Answering a question about if the Board was made aware of additional costs when presented with the first item, Mr. Lee stated he could not remember presentation but all costs were part of the project budget. A request was made to advise the Board of when items will be added later.

In response to a question about where the esports equipment will be located, VPAT Lee stated it will be located in the Living Learning Center. Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Dietrick to approve the purchase of the esports equipment. Motion passed.

**j. HVAC Preventative Maintenance Agreement**

Mr. Lee presented the item. VPAT Lee noted this is a renewal of a preventative HVAC maintenance agreement. Mr. Lee stated the agreement helps ensure the equipment stays in good order and lasts for a long time. VPAT Lee advised funding is from the facilities annual operating budget. Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Schmidt to approve the maintenance agreement. Motion passed.

**C. Information Item(s)**

**1. Quarterly Financial Analysis**

VPAT Lee provided a review of financial reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2022.

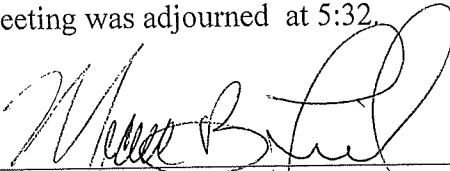
**VI. Public Comments**

**A. Washburn Faculty Senate – Kim Morse, outgoing Senate President; Shaun Schmidt, incoming Faculty President.**

Outgoing Senate President Kim Morse and incoming Faculty Senate President Shaun Schmidt each read a statement regarding the search for the new Washburn President.

Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Sourk to go into executive session for purposes of discussing personnel issues of non-elected personnel and to return to open session at 5:30. Motion passed.

Acting Chair Buhler re-opened the public meeting at 5:30. Meeting was adjourned at 5:32.



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Marc Fried  
Secretary, Board of Regents



**Faculty Senate Presidents Public Comments**  
**Washburn University Board of Regents (WUBOR)**  
**May 5, 2022**

Good afternoon. On behalf of the faculty of Washburn University we appreciate this opportunity to speak with you. My name is Kim Morse. I am completing my nineteenth year at Washburn. I am a Professor of History. I was a senator first from 2010-2012, served again from 2018 to 2020, and elected to serve as Senate president from May 2020 until Monday.

Good afternoon. I am Shaun Schmidt and am completing my 21<sup>st</sup> year at Washburn. I am Professor and serve as Chair of the Chemistry Department. Most recently, I served as Parliamentarian on Faculty Senate and as a member of the Executive Committee from May 2020 until Monday, when I was elected to again serve as Faculty Senate President.

**President Morse:**

Thank you, Dr., and Mrs. Farley, for your 25 years of service to Washburn and commitment to our motto, Non Nobis Solum. Thank you, Dr. Mazachek, true servant leader, mentor, our VPAA, and friend. Thank you to Dr. Bearman and Dr. Mazachek for acknowledging faculty efforts in support of student success. Faculty's efforts in the last two years to move us through the pandemic defy description. Crucial to what has made us good for students through the pandemic has been our commitment to shared governance. Shared governance is:

*the structures and processes through which faculty, staff, administration, and sometimes students participate in the development of policies and in decision-making that affect the institution.*

Faculty Senate is grateful to Dr. Mazachek for her commitment to shared governance as VPAA. It was through the partnership with her and her staff and with Dr. Grospitch and his staff that we are as strong and healthy as we are today.

Now, as we enter a transition phase that will define the future of Washburn, faculty is resolved in our commitment to shared governance, to working with administration, staff, and students in the visioning and decision-making procedures and processes essential in the transitions and in our future.

It is common on university campuses throughout the nation to incorporate governing boards in shared governance. As we build toward WU's future, we must incorporate WUBOR in shared governance. Indeed, Washburn is stronger when communication between students, staff, administration, faculty, and WUBOR is consistent and transparent.

For the last two years as Senate President, I have sent Monday emails to all faculty (and much of the staff). The purpose of the emails has changed over time, often responded to the crises of the moment, but consistently informed, shared the wisdom learned from colleagues, empathized, and encouraged. Lately, my repeated message has been faculty leads because faculty endures. On Monday faculty gathered at the last senate meeting of the year. The one

discussion item was VPAA and President transitions. What was immediately clear is that faculty embraces the transitions with equal parts optimism and anxiety. Faculty are resolute in the knowledge that faculty endures and leads especially now. Faculty insist on our right and our obligation to participate in conversations about transition processes and in the transition processes as they evolve.

### President Schmidt:

I am honored to have been associated with Faculty Senate since its inception. While the mission of Faculty Senate is clearly set forward in our constitution, each Faculty Senate President has led the faculty in their own way, on the course that they see forward. These are normal and necessary adjustments that occur with any transition in leadership. However, when considering changes in University executive leadership, setting a clear, strategic, new direction is much more critical for the long-term health of the institution. Therefore, Faculty are resolved in the following:

1. Washburn is not well-served by a rapid search for a long-term president. Instead, we believe an Interim President is needed to guide the university community's transition to the next long-term presidency. The KBOR approach to appointing executive leadership may work for our cousin institutions. However, Washburn is unique in its role in our community and faces a set of unique challenges.
2. Faculty request the opportunity to work with an Interim President who can help all of us (faculty, staff, students, and WUBOR) assess how healthy we are and clarify our identity in a post-pandemic world. An interim can see us with a fresh set of eyes and can make tough decisions which begin our transition from the status quo of a long-term presidency. This interim can help us become more focused and strategic to attract candidates for the Presidency with the correct skill sets needed to fit the leadership and management needs for Washburn University in the present and in our future.
3. Faculty knows that the president chooses a VPAA or Provost who is the best fit to carry the University's vision. For that reason, the *next long-term* president of Washburn must work with WUBOR, faculty, staff, and students in the search for the next long-term VPAA or Provost.
4. A long-term interim president is not necessary. It is probable that an interim presidency, with an individual skilled in executive transitions, could last less than a year.

Dr. Farley managed the institution for a quarter of a century. It is time for the community of the institution to look at ourselves, our strengths and challenges moving forward. We need to take the time necessary to give you the feedback that you need so that *together* we may find our next president. An interim president is essential. If you choose to move forward with the search for a long-term president without an interim presidency, you impede the next long-term President and their ability to lead all of us forward.

Thank you for your servant leadership as Regents to Washburn. We know that you take this obligation seriously. We look forward to our future as IChabods...together.