

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
November 14, 2022

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Buhler called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were: Mr. Beck, Mrs. Buhler, Mr. Dicus, Mr. Dietrick**, Mr. Romero, and Mrs. Sourk.

**Participated via Zoom

III. New Business

Chair Buhler opened the meeting to discuss the one item, which is appointees to the Washburn Board of Regents by the Mayor. Marc Fried explained that the current language of the statute designates the Mayor appoint regents using the three state senatorial districts. After the redistricting, there will now be four senate districts within the city limits.

To address this issue, Mr. Fried presented five options: 1) Do nothing and leave the statute as currently written. This would mean that the fourth district would not have representation and the four districts would have unequal population. 2) Combine the two smaller districts (18th and 3rd) into one appointment and keep the other two districts (19th and 20th) with an appointment from each. 3) Use the City Council district as boundaries. 4) Use existing statutory language (K.S.A. 72-1077) as a template that guides school districts in establishing boundaries. This language would require the board to create districts that are compact and as equal as possible and change boundaries with census changes. 5) Have three at-large appointments from Topeka with no residency or boundary requirements.

The regents discussed all options, including potential impacts of each option. They considered that Washburn is a municipal university, the goals of equitable representation from all parts of the city, having balanced population (equal number of residents) in each, frequency of needed amendments to boundaries or the statute with population changes, and the complexity of each option. Washburn's lobbyists John Pinegar and Doug Smith attended the meeting and participated in the discussion, answering questions of regents.

Regent Beck moved to authorize Marc Fried to work with John Pinegar and Doug Smith to draft language using K.S.A. 72-1077 as a template to present to the legislature. Motion was seconded by Regent Sourk. Motion Passed.

IV. Executive Session

At 12:34 p.m. Regent Sourk moved to recess to Executive Session to discuss matters of non-elected personnel for 20 minutes. Motion was seconded by Regent Romero. Motion passed.

At 12:52 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session. There was no further action.

It was moved by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dicus to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Cynthia Holthaus
Assistant Secretary, Board of Regents