

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
March 21, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Buhler called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

II. Roll Call

Present were: Regent Buhler, Regent Dicus, Regent Dietrick, Regent Fisher, Regent Nave, Regent Padilla, Regent Romero, and Regent Sourk.

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Buhler shared some of the Regents are attending the AGB Board Professionals National Conference next week in Boston which is a professional development opportunity for the Regents. One of the sessions includes a presentation by Dr. Mazachek, Regent Dietrick, and Paul Friga.

Chair Buhler noted Washburn's graduation ceremonies are six weeks away. The Regents will receive schedules soon. She also pointed out a copy of the Strategic Framework handout on the regents' table.

B. President's Report

President Mazachek noted, due to the hard work of many here today, the meeting is full of relevant items. The President introduced our newest leadership member to the Board, Provost John Fritch. He will hit the ground running today as the first presenter.

President Mazachek shared the search for the next Dean of College of Arts and Sciences is underway. An outstanding search committee has been selected to identify the best candidates.

The President stated that February and March were busy months at the State legislature. They were successful in efforts to bring money for student success, cyber security, need based aid, and funds for the new manufacturing center at Tech.

Chair Buhler added congratulations to Dean Jackson, newly hired Dean of the Law School.

IV. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

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

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the February 2, 2024, Meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – January 2024**
- 3. Faculty/Staff Personnel Actions**
- 4.. Grant Tenure for New Hire**

B. Action Items

1. Tenure and Promotion Recommendations

Provost John Fritch presented this item and noted tenure is granted upon the conclusion of an incredibly rigorous process. It is a reward for excellent teaching, strong scholarship, and service to the university and community. Washburn has a thorough review process. It begins with an evaluation of the teaching of the faculty members, but it also looks at their scholarship and service.

Provost Fritch noted promotion is a mark of excellence. The five people presented have committed a large part of their careers to Washburn University and our community and are deserving of their promotions. Provost Fritch shared he is proud to recommend each of the faculty listed on the agenda item for tenure and promotion.

Motion by Regent Nave and seconded by Regent Fisher. Motion passed.

2. Emeriti

Provost John Fritch presented the faculty listed on this item to the Board for consideration as emeriti faculty. Provost Fritch noted that Linda Elrod has worked at the Law School for 50 years and has written books that are present in 35 law schools. Dr. Fritch shared how important Laura Stephenson has been to him. Dr. Stephenson's commitment to providing him with a smooth transition has been remarkable as well as her desire to see Washburn University be an even better place after she retires.

Provost Fritch noted this is an amazing group of faculty. They represent more than 300 years of teaching, scholarship, and service to the Washburn community.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Padilla. Motion passed.

2. Eminentes Universitatis

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and explained that Washburn University awards the Eminentes Universitatis designation to long-term employees who meet the university requirements and service performed is judged to have been meritorious.

Chris Rhoades started at Washburn University in 2010 in the Financial Aid office. In 2012, she joined the College of Arts and Sciences. Throughout her tenure in the College, Chris has demonstrated exceptional dedication, skill and support to Washburn. Chris's hard work and commitment to continuous improvement have made a lasting impact on the College and the institution.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Romero. Motion passed.

President Mazachek shared her appreciation of the faculty and staff who were just recognized. They represent pillars of the university and will leave this place better than they found it. She noted it is an honor to welcome them into retirement and into tenure as well as professor.

4. Washburn USW Local 307L-4 Memorandum of Agreement

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and thanked the committee that worked with Union leadership to develop this one-year contract extension. The proposed MOA was approved by local steel workers on January 23, 2024, and expires January 31, 2025. Noted changes were to Appendix A job classifications and wage rates as reflected on the attachment.

Motion by Regent Padilla and seconded by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

5. Honorary Degree Candidate

Provost John Fritch presented this item. The university recommends TC Broadnax, School of Business alum, be awarded an Honorary Degree at the 2024 commencement ceremonies. His name would have been brought forward at the last meeting, but he was not able to confirm his availability at that time.

Motion by Regent Nave and seconded by Regent Romero. Motion passed.

Regent Nave commented on how deserving Mr. Broadnax is for this honor.

6. Washburn Tech Admission Changes

Provost John Fritch presented this item and stated this proposal will align Washburn Tech admissions policy with that of the Washburn University campus. Dr. Fritch thanked Dean Scott Smathers and his staff for recognizing this discrepancy and developing a proposal to rectify it.

Motion by Regent Padilla and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

7. New Program Proposal – Mathematics Secondary Education: Core Mathematics 6-12

Provost John Fritch reported this proposal results from the hard work of Chair Sarah Cook and Interim Dean Kelly Erby. The proposal is in response to State of Kansas licensure changes. The State has opened a new license which will allow individuals holding this license to teach courses up to and including Algebra, regardless of the grade level in which the course is taught. The new program will not require a new course or additional staffing.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

8. Approve Housing and Dining Rates

Vice President Eric Grospitch presented this item and noted in the past, this has been included in the overall budget in June. This is the first time it's been separated. The room rates derive from multiple factors including operations, utilities, and capital project. This proposal includes a comparison of housing and dining rates at KBOR institutions, which are also taken into account. This year, an average room rate increase of 3.45% and an average meal plan rate increase of 3.8% is proposed.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Romero. Motion passed.

9. Presidential Residence Naming

Marshall Meek, President of Washburn Alumni Association and Foundation, shared it is exciting naming this building, thanks to the generous donations of alumni. Construction is well underway on the presidential residence. During planning stages, the working name was the McVicar House. This project was funded entirely by a small group of anonymous donors. The lead gift exceeded the threshold for naming recognition that Washburn uses to name buildings. This donor prefers not to have recognition and asked for it to be named after the Ross family who have a rich history of deep Washburn ties and are tremendous supporters of the university.

Motion by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

10. Plass Building – Audio Visual Equipment

Vice President Luther Lee noted at the March 2023 meeting, the Board approved the renovation of the Plass building to house the move of the Library and Student Success areas. The current project budget includes the purchase and installation of audio-visual equipment.

Vice President Lee stated the university requested a proposal from Cytek Media Systems, a preferred provider of audio-visual equipment. The scope of the equipment includes classrooms, signage, offices, and common spaces. The recommendation is to approve the contract to Cytek Media Systems.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Fisher. Motion passed.

11. Capital Projects and Equipment from the Debt Retirement and Construction Fund

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and shared each year the Board approves the list of smaller capital projects, specifically for facilities, equipment, and technology. A committee reviews the requests and determines how it fits within the strategic framework. They are then ranked and prioritized for funding. The actual award and expenditures come to the Board for approval per usual process.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

12. Washburn Lee Arena Renovation Project-CMAR

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item and noted Washburn issued an RFP for the Construction Manager at Risk firm for the Lee Arena renovation project. The project would include replacing seating and flooring as well as adding meeting and study spaces. The floor has not been replaced since Lee Arena was built. The university received proposals from four CMAR firms. The firms were ranked based on their experience on similar projects, team members, and the cost of their service. The funding will be split between private funds and university reserves. Washburn recommends Senne Company be awarded the CMAR contract for this project.

Motion by Regent Fisher and seconded by Regent Padilla. Motion passed.

13. Restroom Renovations

Vice President Luther Lee shared this project is to renovate several restrooms on campus including the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, the Education

Department in Plass north building, and the basement of Garvey Fine Arts Center. The needs for the renovations in each space are different but will benefit from performing the work with the same project team. The university received proposals from two firms and recommends Kelley Construction at a total cost of \$305,050.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

14. Interior Design – Master Services Agreement

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. As Washburn pursues improvements across campus, it was determined that selecting an architectural firm to support several interior remodels would provide the best efficiency and value to the university. Proposals were received from five design firms. The top three firms were interviewed and evaluated on team members, experience with similar agreements, ability to manage multiple priorities, and proposed costs.

Vice President Lee noted after the review process; it was determined that selecting two firms would better serve Washburn's needs. The recommendation is to award the interior design master services agreement to HTK and Falk Architects.

Motion by Regent Sourk and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

15. Campus Road Repairs Project Phase III

Vice President Luther Lee noted the university continues to address areas needing road repair across campus and is seeking to repair parts of Durow Drive and Mulvane Street. This is phase three of a multiple road repair project due to costs and disruptions during repairs. This work will be performed this summer and will not overlap with renovations at Lee Arena.

Vice President Lee shared the university issued an RFP to obtain competitive pricing and received bids from three vendors. Meri-crete provided the lowest proposal and can meet the terms and conditions. Funding will be provided by previously approved capital funds. The recommendation is to award the contract in the amount of \$130,500 to Meri-crete.

Motion by Regent Dietrick and seconded by Regent Padilla. Motion passed.

16. Policy to Meet Requirements of Kansas Fairness in Women's Sports Act

Cynthia Holthaus, Chief of Staff, presented this item. In 2023, the Kansas legislature passed the Kansas Fairness in Women's Sports Act. This policy falls into the compliance category, as the law requires us to have a policy addressing participation in athletic events and intramurals. The proposed language puts into writing our current practice.

Motion by Regent Dicus and seconded by Regent Nave. Motion passed.

17. Resolution Declaring an Intent for Washburn University to Issue Revenue Bonds

Vice President Luther Lee presented this item. This proposal gives the university authority to secure bond financing up to \$15,000,000. This is the same process we used for the Law School and the Indoor Athletic facility.

Motion by Regent Romero and seconded by Regent Dietrick. Motion passed.

C. Discussion Item(s)

1. Henderson Renovation Update

Vice President Luther Lee introduced Eric Just, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Services. Mr. Lee provided the Board with an update on the Henderson Renovation project and first thanked David Sollars, Kelly Erby and Laura Stephenson for their contributions.

Mr. Just noted in December 2021, the Board approved a renovation of Henderson Resource Center. The total project budget was \$35 million. Due to inflation and the additional meeting spaces added, the university anticipates a \$5 million increase or 15% of the original budget. The Board recently approved the hire of the architects GastingerWalker, and the construction manager at risk, McGownGordon. They have begun their pre-construction services which include designs, cost estimates, project scheduling and phase planning.

Mr. Just shared conceptual floor plans of the renovation. In addition to those spaces, they will upgrade HVAC and restrooms which is about 25-30% of the total cost. All academic units will stay, ITS will be moving out and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's suite will be moving there.

The completion of the renovation will depend on whether it is done in phases or if it is vacated and remodeled. If vacated, they estimate 15-18 months for completion.

D. Information Item(s)

1. Quarterly Financial Analysis

Chair Buhler noted the next Board meeting will be held on May 2, 2024.

V. Executive Session

Chair Buhler moved the Board recess for an executive session for 20 minutes after a 5-minute recess to clear the room. The subject of this executive session will be to discuss situations involving one or more Washburn employees and to protect the privacy of the employee or employees involved. Regent Nave seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting moved into executive session at 4:33 p.m. and ended at 4:53 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 4:53 p.m. Regent Sourk moved the meeting to be adjourned and was seconded by Regent Dicus. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Cynthia Holthaus
Assistant Secretary, Board of Regents