

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA
BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
March 13, 2025

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Dietrick called the meeting to order at 3:29 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 Jeffrey
Regent Nave
Regent Padilla
Regent Romero (via Zoom)
Regent Sourk

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Dietrick welcomed everyone and shared the Greater Topeka Partnership (GTP) recently announced recipients of the 2025 annual meeting awards. GTP's highest honor, The Wolgast Award will be presented to Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek for her transformational leadership of Washburn University. Dr. Mazachek has led Washburn to record-breaking enrollment, the launch of the Promise and Thrive Scholarships, and the historic \$250 million capital campaign. Chair Dietrick noted Teresa and Bruce McPherson will also receive an award for their \$3 million donation to Washburn Tech North.

Washburn is hosting the NCAA Division II Men's Central Regional basketball tournament this weekend. The Ichabod's are the number one seed in the tournament. Please come out and support the Ichabod's this weekend.

B. President's Report

President Mazachek asked Lori Hutchinson, Executive Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing, to give an update on the Kansas City awareness campaign.

Executive Director Hutchinson shared the campaign that began in February will run through the middle of June. President Mazachek spent time in Kansas City on Tuesday appearing on three different talk shows. The commercials will begin next week during the NCAA basketball tournament. Ms. Hutchinson shared a short clip of the video.

President Mazachek noted the following happenings on campus. The university is proud to announce the appointment of Sara Stepp as interim director of the Mulvane Art Museum. The WSGA elections will be held tomorrow. The NCAA Indoor Track Championships are being held this weekend. The campus has begun the domino effect of moving offices, the first being the move of two vice president's suites to Morgan Hall. The Foundation will be the next to move into BTAC and then a series of other moves will follow. The President recognized the hard work of persons on the campus moves committee and facilities staff and noted the patience of our employees during this process.

President Mazachek shared there are many upcoming events in April including Washburn Tech Signing Day, opening of the new Recital Hall, and Town Hall meetings which the President host at the end of April.

IV. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

Motion by Regent Fisher and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the February 6, 2025 meeting**
- 2. Liquidated Claims Approval – January 2025**
- 3. Faculty/Staff Personnel Action**

B. Action Items

- 1. Designate Dr. Dave Provorse as Associate Professor Emeritus (Posthumously)**

Presented by Provost John Fritch. Dr. Dave Provorse, an Associate Professor in Psychology, began teaching at Washburn in 1991 and served nearly 34 years. Unfortunately, he and his wife Marcia were killed in a car crash in December. Dr. Provorse chaired over 60 master's theses, supervised numerous graduate students in the mental health field, taught the marathon training class for many years, and

served as department chair for 13 years. His impact on the university and the community will live on through his many colleagues and thousands of students he taught. Dr. Mazachek recommends the Board designate Dr. Dave Provorse as Associate Professor Emeritus (posthumously).

Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Padilla to designate Dr. Dave Provorse as Associate Professor Emeritus (posthumously). Motion passed.

2. Emeriti

Provost Fritch presented this item and asked the faculty to stand as he recognized them.

Dr. Jane Carpenter graduated from the School of Nursing (SON) in 1980 and has been a faculty member in the SON for 32 years. She served as the Dean since 2020. Dr. Carpenter's leadership during COVID is commended. She helped facilitate two federal funded grants and has worked tirelessly to assist nursing students in the classroom and help prepare them for the NCLEX exam. Dr. Carpenter will retire at the end of this academic year.

Dr. Barbara Scofield is completing her twelfth year teaching at the School of Business but is in her fortieth year of college teaching. Dr. Scofield was instrumental in launching the Washburn IMA chapter as well as developing online financial and accounting courses. Dr. Scofield will retire on July 31.

Dr. Bradley Siebert, Assistant Professor of English has taught at Washburn for 30 years. He taught all levels of writing and is a former editor of Kansas English and columnist for Mennonite Weekly Review. Dr. Siebert will retire in May.

Dennis Schafers, Lecturer in the School of Nursing since 2012. Mr. Schafers graduated from Washburn's School of Nursing in 1978 and the Nurse Practitioner program in 2016. Mr. Schafers will continue helping with clinicals at the School of Nursing and plans to retire this summer.

Connie Gibbons served as Director of the Mulvane Art Museum for 12 years, in which time she provided the curatorial vision for the museum's collections, exhibitions, and programs. Under Ms. Gibbons leadership, Washburn opened the Rita Blitt Gallery and Sculpture Garden, celebrated the 100th birthday of Mulvane, and helped build a stronger relationship with the community. Ms. Gibbons retired on February 28, 2025.

President Mazachek recommends the Board designate Jane Carpenter as Dean Emeritus and Associate Professor Emeritus; Dr. Barbara Scofield as Professor Emeritus; Dr. Bradley Siebert as Assistant Professor Emeritus; Dennis Schafers as Lecturer Emeritus; and Connie Gibbons as Mulvane Art Museum Director Emeritus.

Motion by Regent Dicus and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the above-mentioned faculty their emeritus status. Motion passed.

3. Tenure and Promotion

Provost John Fritch presented this item. Tenure and Promotion are an important element of the academic enterprise. It allows faculty to teach the way students deserve to be taught. It provides an ability for the university to evaluate the best teaching practices for our students. It allows faculty to explore ideas through research and teaching. It is critical to the functioning of the university. Provost Fritch asked tenure and promotion candidates to stand as he read their names:

Tenure candidates: Louis Krug, Kelly Thor, Crystal Stevens

Promotion candidates: Joseph Kendall-Morwick, Mark Kohls, Zenova Williams, Manaf Sellak, Amanda Hartman, Delaine Smith, Jody Toerber-Clark

The President recommends the Board of Regents approve the tenure and promotion candidates listed on the agenda item.

Motion by Regent Nave and second by Regent Sourk to approve the promotion and tenure candidates presented to the Board. Motion passed.

4. Streamlining Certificate Pathways

Provost Fritch presented this item. In response to demands of the workforce, Washburn Tech is presenting several changes to current certificates. In some cases, they are adding certificates and in other areas removing certificates. In one instance it will give students multiple ways to enter the workforce. Washburn Tech leadership works hard to ensure the university is meeting the needs of the community.

Motion by Regent Jeffrey and second by Regent Dicus to approve the certificate changes to Washburn Tech programs. Motion passed.

3:57 p.m. - Regent Romero left the meeting before the vote on Item B.4.

5. Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Provost Fritch presented this item and noted Washburn Tech currently offers a Diagnostic Medical Sonography program with advanced certificates. By adding hours to this program, it would create a pathway for students to complete an Associate of Applied Science degree. It would also create an opportunity for students to return to a four-year program by transferring those credit hours.

Motion by Regent Fisher and second by Regent Buhler to approve the addition of an Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Motion passed.

6. Naming Baseball Field

President Mazachek presented this item and shared the Board approves the naming of buildings and other physical facilities on campus. The university considers the naming of these spaces to be among the highest honors Washburn can bestow.

President Mazachek recognized Marshall Meek and his work with a group of donors. They raised \$1.5 million to honor Steve Anson. Many knew Coach Anson who was Washburn's Head Baseball Coach for 35 years. He had genuine compassion for athletes and wanted them to succeed both on and off the field. Coach Anson was present in the students' lives in other areas besides baseball, making it a priority to participate in weddings and other life events after graduation. His legacy created an Ichabod baseball family. In honor of Steven Anson, the President recommends the Board consider naming the baseball stadium the Steve Anson Stadium and the field remain Falley Field.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Discus to approve the naming of the baseball stadium the Steve Anson Stadium. Motion passed.

7. Capital Projects and Capital Improvement Requests

Vice President Luther Lee shared this is the annual process to present the capital projects and improvement needs on campus. He recognized John Haverty and Eric Just for their work in putting together the list. The list includes proposed capital maintenance, other equipment needs as well as technology equipment needs. The items will be fully funded from the Debt Retirement and Construction Fund (DR&C). Individual projects will still be subject to university guidelines and will seek Board approval when necessary.

Motion by Regent Buhler and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the capital projects and equipment for FY26 funded by the FY25 DR&C Fund.

8. Bond Authorization

Vice President Lee presented this item and noted the funding plan for Advisors Excel Hall includes private gifts, reserves and bond financing. In February, the Board authorized the next steps in issuance of bonds as well as the refunding process. Moody confirmed the university has an A1 level bond rating due to diversified revenue, positive enrollment trends and relatively low existing debt. Vice President Lee introduced Mitch Walter with Gilmore and Bell, and Michael Newman with Hilltop Securities Inc.

Mr. Walter shared they are putting the bond issue together and preparing the bond documents necessary for issuance. Gilmore and Bell published the notice of intent to issue per statutory requirements with a 30-day period. They anticipate the actual pricing on April 9 and will determine when it is most advantageous to enter the market for Washburn. Today's action authorizes issuance and interest. President Mazachek has the authority to sign agreements needed to complete the bond issuance. Gilmore and Bell will deliver the documents to the Treasurer's office as well as the Attorney General's office. When it closes the university will get a refund of 2015 saving bonds.

Mr. Newman with Hilltop Securities has a fiduciary duty to the university. The interest rate was 4.36% at the time the documents were put together. This could change with the global trade war effects on the bond market and municipal trade market in addition to the stock market. The parameters are set appropriately, and Hilltop Securities will assist the university in seeking the best value and will be prepared to enter the market at the appropriate time. The underwriter selected is Raymond James. They have billions of capital and have the ability to retain all if needed.

Motion by Regent Nave and second by Regent Padilla to adopt the bond resolution which will authorize the issuance of the Series 2025 Bonds, approve the distribution of the preliminary official statement, authorize the President to approve the sale of the bonds and execute the Bond Purchase Agreement. Motion passed.

9. Washburn USW Local 307L-4 MOA

Vice President Lee presented this item and stated this is the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Washburn University and the United Steel Workers. Mr. Lee recognized the work of the committee with the union leadership. Key points are it is a one-year contract, the rates take affect February 1, and it will allow the university to be competitive in recruiting and retaining employees. It includes a shift differential, an adjusted work plan, and transportation for employees during inclement weather.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Dicus to approve the new MOA between Washburn University and the United Steel Workers Local 307L-4. Motion passed.

C. Information Items

Quarterly Financials

V. Next Meeting Date

A. Board of Regents Meeting – May 1, 2025

VII. Adjournment

Regent Dicus moved the meeting to be adjourned and was seconded by Regent Nave. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Marc Fried
Secretary, Board of Regents