

**WASHBURN UNIVERSITY OF TOPEKA**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 13, 2025**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Dietrick called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. in the McElroy Board Room, Morgan Hall 200B, on the Washburn University campus.

**II. Roll Call**

Present were:

Regent Buhler – arrived 11:59  
Regent Dicus  
Regent Dietrick  
Regent Fisher  
Regent Jeffrey  
Regent Nave  
Regent Padilla – not present for meeting  
Regent Romero  
Regent Sourk

**III. New Business**

**A. Action Items**

**1. Athletic Corridor Master Plan**

Luther Lee, Vice-President for Administration and Treasurer, presented the item. This is to get approval from the Board for the Plan so fundraising can begin. The budget estimate for all of the projects is \$9-10 Million. The plan consists of upgrades to the tennis courts, football locker room, tailgate plaza east of Yager Stadium and a walking path from parking lot east of Lee Arena to the east side of Yager Stadium.

Eric Just, Assistant Vice-President Facilities Services, walked the Board through renderings of the projects. Mr. Just noted the locker room involves an addition to the northwest portion of the Petro Allied Health Center and creates lockers for the entire team, as well as added restrooms and a media area.

For the tennis courts, Mr. Just noted because the courts are so tight, a ball from one court often interrupts action on neighboring courts. Mr. Just stated the plan

would move two courts further east, creating more space between courts and also a gathering area for teams across from the scoreboard and lighting for the courts is a possible option. A public gathering and seating area would be added between the existing court area and the new courts to the east, as well as adding more seating for the new courts on the east side. Responding to a question about restrooms, Mr. Just noted restrooms in Petro are accessible and used for events on the tennis courts.

A suggestion was made to look at adding a walking pathway from the tailgate plaza to the Student Wellness and Recreation Center and the Indoor Athletic Facility.

President Mazachek noted this is being brought forward as a totally privately funded project. The project not only improves the experience for the student athletes but also for the fans and supporters of the student athletes.

In response to the question if we have enough locker rooms, Athletic Director Loren Ferre responded tennis and track and field don't have lockers, but he doesn't think they would use them. Mr. Ferre added locker rooms are becoming more gathering locations for the athletes and not just a place to change clothes and take a shower.

In response to a question if looking to fundraise each project individually or doing it simultaneously, Dr. Mazachek answered there is some economies of scale to fundraise for all projects at same time.

Motion by Regent Fisher and second by Regent Sourk to approve moving forward with fundraising for the Athletic Corridor Master Plan. Motion passed.

\*\* Regent Buhler arrived at 11:59, shortly after Just began his presentation.

## **2. Campus Mechanical Systems Audit – Planning for Potential ESCO Project**

Vice President Luther Lee presented the item. Mr. Lee thanked Eric Just for his work on this project. Washburn previously partnered with Trane to do a performance-based energy savings project in 2013. For this reason, as the project would be using similar systems installed and maintained by Trane, Trane is considered a sole source vendor for this project. The systems audit would be paid with capital fund monies.

Mr. Lee introduced Keven Ward of Trane. Mr. Ward informed the Board Trane installed the systems lab at Washburn Tech East, which has served as the foundation for installation of similar systems across the country. Trane is looking to utilize funding opportunities to leverage costs of project, including utility rebates, inflation reduction Act incentives and energy and operations savings.

Ward noted 47% of University's equipment is past its useful life, so Washburn has been good stewards in getting full life of the equipment. Data in the presentation showed energy savings continued to occur even as Washburn added facilities to the campus.

Mr. Lee advised the project, if approved after the audit report, would add about a \$2,000,000 per year bond payment but savings per year would reduce that payment significantly. The full project would involve decommissioning the central steam plant boilers.

Lee said the project will help prevent catastrophic failure and costs of repair which could be just as costly. The investment grade audit will provide needs and a full cost statement for the Board to make an informed decision whether to proceed with the full project.

Eric Just added that the impact if these systems go out is more than just the additional costs because the problem affects the available use of buildings for classes and other operations.

President Mazachek advised the Board this item is just for the audit with the goal to come back to the Board in October with information on the project and costs. Cost of the audit would be absorbed in the project cost if the Board decides to proceed with the full project.

Motion by Regent Dicus and second by Regent Romero to approve the award of the contract to Trane to perform an investment grade mechanical systems audit and make recommendations for project plans as described. Motion passed.

### **3. Kansas City Campaign Agreement, Phase II Part 2, with Walz Tetrick**

Lori Hutchinson presented. This phase II of the campaign will include a call to action in addition to further developing name recognition. The Board at its meeting in June previously approved the television advertisement purchase portion of Phase II to ensure the best schedule for fall. The remaining portion of Phase II adds creative costs for video and audio ads, streaming video and audio, and traditional radio ads.

Hutchinson added the campaign would run from September 1 through November 30. A focus group in July conducted by Walz Tetrick will help with the campaign messaging. Total cost of phase II is \$206,931.

In response to a question about data showing impact from last year's campaign, Dr. Mazachek noted Phase I was more of information campaign and was done late

in year, so it was not intended to generate much increase in applications. This Phase will be a different focus.

Motion by Regent Sourk and second by Regent Jeffrey to approve the expenditure of \$206,931 to Walz Tetrack Advertising.

#### **4. Hanover Research Contract Renewal**

Christa Smith presented. The agreement is to renew the contract with Hanover Research for three years. Washburn has partnered with Hanover since 2019. Ms. Smith described some of the projects performed by Hanover which provided data for decisions made regarding programming, marketing and hiring. The contract is for two research queues so can have two research projects going on at any one time. Funding is from the Provost's budget for this expenditure.

Motion by Regent Nave and second by Regent Romero to approve the commitment of \$270,000 over three years for Hanover Research.

#### **5. Athletic Charter Transportation – Ratification**

Luther Lee presented. This agreement needed to be signed before the next regularly scheduled board meeting due to the start of the athletic season and the vendor needed to commit resources for the activity. The cost stated is an estimate, which could change based on actual use and schedules yet to be published for the spring sports. The agreement is for five years with options to renew for two one-year periods.

Chairperson Dietrick stated he reviewed the agreement, and all of his questions were answered.

In response to a question about if Washburn investigated having their own buses, Athletic Director Loren Ferre stated this had been looked into several years ago but costs of maintenance and replacing older busses makes that option cost prohibitive. Mr. Ferre added the vendor will put a Washburn wrap on one of the busses.

Motion by Regent Dicus and second by Regent Buhler to ratify the previously signed contract with Arrow Stage Lines for the estimated amount of \$251,071 for Fiscal Year 2026 charter bus service for athletic team travel.

### **VII. Adjournment**

Regent Nave moved the meeting to be adjourned and was seconded by Regent Dicus. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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Marc Fried  
Secretary, Board of Regents