

**KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**\*\*\* Meeting Was Conducted in Person and by Teleconference \*\*\***

**Friday, June 27, 2025  
10:00 a.m. EDT**

**Board of Regents Room  
Julian M. Carroll Academic Services Building, 2nd Floor  
400 East Main Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
(Primary Physical Location)**

**MINUTES  
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**I. Call To Order**

The Board's Chair, Regent Tammi Dukes, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**II. Roll Call**

The Board's Secretary, Zachary Atwell, called the roll:

Regent Tammi Dukes, Chair	Present
Regent Edward Fields	Present
Regent Ernie Jonathan Rabinowitz, Esq.	Present
Regent Edward Hatchett, Esq.	Present
Regent Jason Moseley	Present
Regent Charles Moyer, PhD	Present
Regent Robert Ramsey, Sr.	Not Present
Regent Herman Walston, EdD	Present
Regent Aury Rios-Alcantara	Present

Eight (8) Regents were in attendance and present at roll call. A quorum was therefore established.

**III. Consent Agenda**

**A. Minutes from Previous Board and Committee Meetings**

- i. January 30, 2025, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
- ii. January 30, 2025, Finance & Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes
- iii. January 30, 2025, Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
- iv. January 31, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- v. April 28, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

The Board's Chair, Regent Tammi Dukes, presented this agenda item and requested these items be approved under one vote.

**MOTION** by Regent Walston:

Move the Board to approve the previous Board and Committee meeting minutes.

Seconded by Regent Moseley and passed without dissent.

#### **IV. Action and Information Items**

##### **A. University Senate Reports**

i. Faculty Senate Report

This item was presented by Dr. Patrese A. Nesbitt, Faculty Senate President. She presented updates regarding curricula in several academic areas, and explained the newly-approved faculty mentorship program.

Regent Walston inquired into the Master of Social Work program.

Next, Dr. Nesbitt shared Faculty Senate Committee feedback, and discussed Faculty Senate goals for AY25-26, as well as Faculty Senate election results and AY 25-26 meeting dates.

ii. Staff Senate Report

Mr. Delandual Conwell, Staff Senate President, presented this agenda item. In the upcoming year, the Staff Senate would like to offer more work study opportunities for students. Mr. Conwell also discussed several software, app, and web-based initiatives that the staff senate is spearheading. He further reported that the Staff Senate is finishing the documentation on the mentoring program in conjunction with the University's probationary period for new employees and is seeking volunteers to assist with student move-in in August.

iii. SGA Report

Regent Aury Rios-Alcantara, SGA President, presented the SGA report. She introduced the newly elected SGA president and reflected upon her experiences this year as the student Regent. Next, she recapped SGA activities from the past academic year and discussed ongoing student concerns.

##### **B. Office of the President**

The University's President, Dr. Koffi Akapo, presented these agenda items.

i. Six Month Report (Information Item)

President Akakpo presented highlights of the Spring 2025 President's Report, presenting accomplishments as well as opportunities for continued growth.

ii. Approval of Board Retreat Meeting (Action Item)

President Akakpo presented this action item. The Board's Secretary also requested that the regularly scheduled August 7 committee meetings be rescheduled to accommodate the

Board Retreat Meeting, and that the Board meetings scheduled for October 10 be rescheduled to 2 pm.

**MOTION** by Regent Walston:

Move the Board to approve the Board Retreat Meeting schedule to cancel the August 7 committee meetings to instead allow for a full Board retreat August 7 and 8, and to move the meeting time on Oct 10 to 2 pm.

Passed without dissent.

### **C. Division of Finance and Administration**

Prior to the presentations Chair Dukes requested that all action items be approved under one vote at the end of each Divisional presentation.

i. Approval of Revised FY25 Budget (Action Item)

Dr. Melissa Hicks, Interim VP, Finance and Administration, presented this agenda item and explained how the adjusted budget was determined.

Regent Hatchett queried how often a budget can be amended.

ii. Approval of FY 2026 Budget (Action Item)

This agenda item was presented by VP Hicks. She began by reporting the proposed E&G budget and Auxiliaries budget, comparing them to last year's budget. Dr. Hicks also discussed potential cost saving measures.

Regent Moyer requested clarification regarding Dr. Hicks' characterization of the proposed FY26 budget as a "conservative budget".

Regent Moseley posed a question regarding student athlete scholarships.

iii. President's Expense Report (Information Item)

Next, Dr. Hicks presented this agenda item.

Regent Moseley inquired into the status of Hillcrest and whether private funds had been secured to assist with repairs.

Regent Walston sought clarification as to the inhabitability of Hillcrest.

Regent Moyer inquired into the cost to repair Hillcrest.

Regent Dukes requested than an assessment of Hillcrest repair costs be completed and presented at the August Board Retreat.

iv. Report on Expenditures over \$100,000 (Information Item)

Moving forward, Dr. Hicks presented this agenda item.

Regent Moseley posed a question regarding payments to Magellan.

Regent Moyer requested a comparison between the University's cost for online education versus the income generated from it, and whether the program was close to breaking even.

v. Update on Appropriations (Information Item)

This agenda item was presented by Dr. DeAnna Brown, Title III Director. Dr. Brown reported that to-date the University has received one award for HBCU Part B, a slight decrease over what we received over this time last year.

Regent Hatchett inquired into the reason for the decrease and wondered what effect the current federal administration's policies are having upon the University's funding from DC.

Dr. Brown reported that two additional grants, Part F and the HBCU Masters, have been received; however, the Department has not yet been authorized to release those funds.

Regent Walston asked whether these programs were in addition to Title III.

vi. Approval of all FY 2026 Tuition and Fees (Action Item)

Dr. Hicks and Dr. Stephanie Mayberry, Vice Provost, Student Affairs, presented this agenda item.

Regent Rabinowitz posed a question regarding in-state tuition reciprocity for in-coming students from contiguous states, and for Kentucky students attending school in contiguous states.

Regent Moyer inquired into the relationship between fees and the cost of services that are provided by the fee.

Regent Rios-Alcantara inquired into the status of increasing the homecoming fee to provide better homecoming entertainment.

Regent Moseley asked how much of the Activities Fee would go towards athletics.

Regent Fields asked whether the dorm fee was charged annually or per semester.

Regent Fields sought clarification regarding the on-campus meal plan category, "twelve weekly meals with \$500.00".

Regent Rios-Alcantara inquired into the increased housing costs.

Following the presentation, Chair Dukes reiterated all Finance & Administration action items under consideration, then called for a motion.

**MOTION** by Regent Hatchett:

Move the Board to approve all FY 2026 tuition and fees, and all other F&A agenda action items.

Seconded by Regent Walston and passed without dissent.

**D. Division of Academic Affairs**

i. PEP Program (Information Item)

This information item was presented by Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost, and Ms. Cathi Smith, Director of Adult Learning and Experiential Education.

Dr. Dailey introduced the Prison Education Program (“PEP”) and turned the presentation over to Ms. Smith. She explained the component and outcomes/goals of the PEP and criteria for the prison selection process, as well as a launch timeline and growth and PEP instruction modality. Ms. Smith also clarified the program’s importance to KSU and the community, then read letters from former program participants.

Regent Fields inquired into the candidate selection process.

Regent Walston posed a question regarding currently incarcerated individuals who had previously completed coursework at KSU and now wish to continue their education.

Regent Rabinowitz asked how the curriculum was decided upon.

ii. Approval of Tenure and Promotion Action (Action Item)

This agenda item was presented by Dr. Dailey.

Regent Walston sought clarification as to the number of candidates under consideration.

iii. Approval of Dual Credit Tuition Policy (Action Item)

This action item was presented by Dr. Dailey.

iv. Approval of Emeritus Faculty Designation (Action Item)

Dr. Dailey presented this agenda item.

Following Dr. Dailey’s presentation, Chair Dukes requested that all Academic Affairs action items (ii, iii, and iv) under consideration be approved under one motion and vote.

**MOTION** by Regent Fields:

Move the Board to approve the tenure and promotion action, dual credit tuition policy and emeritus faculty designation.

Seconded by Regent Rios-Alcantara and passed without dissent.

Following the approval Regent Walston asked whether there were any available funds in the budget for faculty promotions.

**E. Division of Institutional Advancement & External Relations**

i. Philanthropy Review Report (Information Item)

This agenda item was presented by Mr. Michael DeCourcy, VP Institutional Advancement and External Relations, and Ms. Kelly Quilter and Ms. AJ Casey, Benefactor Group. Ms. Quilter and Ms. Casey presented findings and recommendations of the Campaign Planning Feasibility Study conducted by Benefactor Group.

Regent Rabinowitz inquired how long it would take to plan an initiative such as the one being described.

ii. Approval of Resolution Endorsing Philanthropy Review Recommendations (Action Item)

VP DeCourcy presented this agenda item.

Following the presentation, Chair Dukes requested that all divisional action items be consolidated and approved under one motion and vote.

iii. Approval of KSUNAA MOU Resolution (Action Item)

This agenda item was presented by VP DeCourcy and Mr. Barry Johnson, KSUNAA President.

Regent Fields inquired into the status of the University's alumni database.

iv. Approval of KSU Thorobreds Foundation Inc. Amended MOU (Action Item)

This agenda item was presented by VP DeCourcy.

v. Approval of Resolution Endorsing KSU Thorobreds Foundation, Inc. Bylaws and Policies (Action Item)

This agenda item was presented by VP DeCourcy.

vi. Approval of KSU Thorobreds Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees (Action Item)

This agenda item was presented by VP DeCourcy.

Regent Walston and Regent Moseley requested two additional nominations.

Following the conclusion of the action item presentations, Chair Dukes requested that all divisional action items be approved under one motion and vote, then read each item under consideration.

**MOTION** by Regent Moseley:

Move the Board to approve all items as presented.  
Seconded by Regent Rabinowitz and passed without dissent.

#### **F. Office of Human Resources**

Chair Dukes asked that all Human Resources action items be approved under one vote and read them into the record. Next, Ms. Kendra Herve, HR Director, presented divisional items (i)-(iii), and AD Grant Stepp presented item (iv).

- i. Filled Positions (Information Item)
- ii. Staff Holiday Schedule (Information Item)
- iii. Approval of Pending Personnel Items (Action Item)
- iv. Approval of Addendum to Head Football Coach Contract (Action Item)

Mr. Grant Stepp, Athletic Director, presented this agenda item.

**MOTION** by Regent Fields:

Move the Board to approve the pending personnel actions and addendum to the head football coach contract.

Seconded by Regent Walston and passed without dissent.

#### **G. Office of General Counsel**

- i. Approval of Viewpoint Neutrality Policy (Action Item)

This agenda item was presented by the University's General Counsel, Mr. Zachary Atwell.

**MOTION** by Regent Fields:

Move the Board to approve the Viewpoint Neutrality Policy.

Seconded by Regent Rios Alcantara and passed without dissent.

- ii. Update on Policies, Regulations, and Procedures (Information Item)

Attorney Atwell presented this agenda item.

Chair Dukes queried whether the policy, regulation and procedures holders had been identified so they could be responsible for future reviews and updates.

#### **V. Closing Remarks**

Chair Dukes thanked Regents Walston and Rios Alcantara for their service to the Board and community and expressed her appreciation to the Regents, President, and community for their leadership and support in building a sustainable future for the University.

**VI. Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Regent Walston:

Move the Board to adjourn.

Seconded by Regent Fields and passed without

dissent. The meeting was adjourned at 12:54p.m.

Submitted by:

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Secretary  
Board of Regents  
Kentucky State University

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Regent Tammi Dukes, Chair  
Board of Regents  
Kentucky State University

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved with no corrections

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