

**KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**Thursday, April 23, 2020
1:00 p.m.**

*****MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY TELECONFERENCE*****

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Elaine Farris, Ed.D. called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

President M. Christopher Brown II, Ph.D. conducted roll call:

Regent Ron Banks	Present
Regent Mindy Barfield, Esq.	Present
Regent Kierra Donald	Present
Regent Elaine Farris, Ed.D.	Present
Regent Chandee Felder	Present
Regent Paul Harnice, Esq.	Present
Regent Dalton Jantzen	Present
Regent Joe Moffett, Ph.D.	Present
Regent Syamala H. K. Reddy, M.D.	Present
Regent Roger Reynolds	Present

Ten Regents were in attendance. Quorum was established.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION by Regent Reddy:

Move the Board to adopt of the Agenda of the April 23, 2020 Special Called Meeting of the Board of Regents.

Seconded by Regent Barfield and passed without dissent.

IV. The Kentucky State University Response to COVID-19: The Global Pandemic

President Brown addressed the Board regarding Kentucky State University's response to the COVID-19 Crisis. The Board has been receiving daily updates since the initiation of the COVID-19 period, but since a number of areas now have no change as they adjust to the new normal, the daily updates will change to weekly updates starting next week unless there is significant change.

Kentucky State University began monitoring the COVID-19 crisis in February and sending mass communications on March 3rd. Within forty-eight hours of the declaration of the pandemic, all of the academic content was changed to an online format

and KSU immediately began training faculty. To ensure adherence to high standards, the Acting Provost and the Deans observed each of the learning templates in Blackboard and performed a course by course assessment to make sure the courses were online and built out. In response to student concerns, the course withdrawal period was extended and a pass/fail grading policy was instituted

All buildings have been sanitized and, except for three that are currently in use, all buildings have been closed. Students who did not have computers for online instruction were loaned laptops from the University's depreciated inventory. The relevant contracts, particularly Sodexo, have been re-negotiated and KSU will receive a refund of \$54,960. Staff is monitoring the CARES Act and working through the initiatives on how to apply the funds. The first portion of the relief can be applied to direct student aid but can't be applied to existing campus debt, facilities, or student accounts.

Student Engagement and University College have been engaging students with online programming and the BREDS Scholastic Rectitude Panel has been established to review grades issued during the COVID-19 period for fairness and consistency and to hear student appeal of grades.

KSU has been able to expand its brand virtually into new markets and has received media attention for what it is doing. In fact, CPE has engaged KSU to assist with their graphics and media.

All in all, the University is doing its best to make sure it is in a good position and not caught by surprise.

Regent Farris then opened the floor for questions from the Regents.

- A. Regent Banks inquired about the possibility of layoffs or furloughs. President Brown responded that there would not be furloughs but layoffs will be necessary. Furloughs are simply a reduction in pay, but there is no decrease in personnel liability. The University needs to be fiscally strict to make sure it is able to respond to changes in Fiscal Year 2021. A Reduction in Force Plan will come to the Board in May.
- B. Regent Moffett requested clarification regarding the second portion of funds from the CARES Act. President Brown stated that the second portion or tranche, needs to have a financial, education, and training component that the University will have to stand up to. KSU's application was submitted on April 11th and the award notification was received on April 20th. The University is still waiting on notice about when the money will be received.
- C. Regent Barfield inquired about the status of recruitment and admissions. President Brown responded that KSU has relieved the ACT and SAT completion requirement, admissions officers are active in online recruiting, the housing application and Thorobred Promise are up, summer school tuition was reduced, and the scholarship programs were re-done.
- D. Regent Donald asked about what steps were are taking to ensure that all students have the necessary support. President Brown encouraged any student who needs assistance to email covid19@kysu.edu as there are five people reading the emails

and responding to students. In addition, University College and Disability Services are working on interventions.

Chairperson Farris reminded the Regents that pursuant to the Gold Book, any emails they received regarding university policies or issues need to be forwarded to the President.

- E. Regent Moffett asked for more information about the BREDS Scholastic Rectitude Panel. President Brown stated that the Panel is comprised of three faculty members, three staff members, and three students and is operating from the President's Office level to move the decisions through quickly.
- F. Regent Harnice asked if multiple of budgets were being prepared to address different scenarios. President Brown stated that worst case scenario and disaster case scenario budgets are being prepared. Regent Harnice asked about the potential for a thirty-five percent reduction in enrollment in the Consortium of HBCU's letter and President Brown responded that this number is across the network. President Brown stated that he believes that KSU is in a unique situation because it is not located in a high density area and does not rely on auxiliary money, such as sports revenue. Regent Harnice stated that it would be prudent to consult with a bankruptcy attorney.
- G. Regent Reddy asked if extra money was needed to fund summer school. President Brown responded that each course needs to pay for itself. Regent Reddy concluded by stating that he is proud of the nursing program and congratulated them for being recognized by the media.
- F. Regent Reynolds wanted to point out that WDRB did a great report, which can be found online, of the actions taken by Kentucky State. He then asked if there is talk of supporting HBCU's in the relief packages. President Brown said that there is no award or relief for HBCU's as yet but there may be statutory relief for Title III which will allow greater flexibility on how the funds are used.
- G. Regent Jantzen asked if transfer students' pass/fail grades will be accepted by other institutions. President Brown stated that pass/fail currently do not transfer which is why he cautioned against it.
- H. Regent Felder inquired why faculty search committees were in place if there is a hiring freeze and we are now talking about layoffs. President Brown responded that the University is only filling the positions related to the faculty vacancies, finances, or accreditation.

V. Adjournment

Chairperson Farris concluded the meeting by stating that it is clear that Kentucky State University has been impacted financially and requested that everyone please be mindful that will have to make tough decisions to be in healthy place financially.

President Brown publicly acknowledged the Vice Presidents, facilities staff, and campus police for being on campus every day.

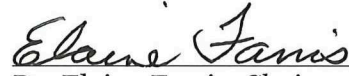
MOTION by Regent Reddy:
Move the Board to adjourn.
Seconded by Regent Barfield and passed without dissent

With no objections, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Submitted by:



Dr. M. Christopher Brown II, Board Secretary
Kentucky State University
Board of Regents



Dr. Elaine Farris, Chair
Kentucky State University
Board of Regents

Approved with no corrections

Approved with corrections