# KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF REGENTS REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Was be Conducted in person and via videoconference

Friday, June 12, 2026
10:00 a.m. EST

Board of Regents Room
Julian M. Carroll Academic Services Building
2nd Floor 400 East Main Street
Frankfort, Kentucky
40601

MINUTES

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1. **Call to Order**

- The Board of Regent's Chair, Regent Tammi Dukes, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

The Board's Secretary, Nicole Sergent, called the roll:

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| Regent Tammi Dukes | Present |
| Regent Edward Fields | Present |
| Regent Matthew Grimshaw | Not Present |
| Regent Edward Hatchett | Present |
| Regent Jason Moseley | Present |
| Regent Charles Moyer | Present |
| Regent Jonathan Rabinowitz | Present |
| Regent Robert Ramsey, Sr. | Not Present |
| Regent James Obielodan | Present |
| Regent Joan "Toni" Stringer | Present |
| Regent Cheyenne Rushing | Present |

- Nine (9) Regents were in attendance and present at roll call. A quorum was therefore established.

3. **Consent Agenda.**

- Regent Dukes stated that given that today's meeting is a regular scheduled meeting, the board would like to revise the consent agenda, which includes the meeting minutes from previous meetings to also include policies requiring action included in the agenda—the Financial Clearance and Collection Policy, Property Purchase, Beverage Agreement Policy, Faculty Workload Policy, Attendance Policy, Weapons and Dangerous Materials Policy, Community Standards Policy, Vacation Leave Policy, Student Employment Policy and Overtime Policy. If any Regent would like to talk about a particular policy to please advise and it will move out of consent to be discussed.
- Regent Hatchett said he realized that in the course of reading the board book for the meeting that they are forever seeing language that indicates that they are in compliance with SACS requirements. He said he wonders if President Akakpo or Dr. Dailey or someone could describe the process by which their conformity with SACS requirement is assured because they've had so many policies presented. Regent Hatchett said he wants to make sure that they have a procedure in place that they are comfortable with.
- Dr. Akakpo said at the retreat the new president of SACSCOC will be at the meeting and he will be free to ask him any questions. Dr. Akakpo added that they are in compliance.
- Regent Fields had a question on the beverage policy with Pepsi. Secretary Sergent said that it's a contract. Regent Fields asked is it a continuation and Secretary Sergent said it is the same vendor chosen.
- Regent Moyer asked if Chair Dukes could call off the names of the policies again. Chair Dukes agreed to do so. Regent Moyer asked if they could hold the faculty workload policy. Chair Dukes agreed to remove the faculty workload policy from the consent agenda.
- Regent Moseley asked if they put out for RFP or a bid or anything on the beverage policy. He mentioned the broken scoreboards in the gym and asked if Pepsi is doing anything to earn their business.
- Secretary Sergent said there was a request for a proposal and there were bids and they were the winning bid per KRS 45A.
- Regent Moseley asked if they could see what they won in the bid or what the proposal was. Secretary Sergent responded that it will be part of the financial group presentation.
- Chair Dukes said they will pull that out for Regent Moseley.
- Chair Dukes said she wanted to make a clarification that the property purchase is not a policy, but it's purchase of property that's included in the board book.
- Regent Hatchett asked if the budget will be a separate agenda item that they will talk about today. Chair Dukes responded yes.
- Regent Hatchett asked if it was going to be with the other group of things that they are putting on the consent agenda. Chair Dukes responded no.
- <u>Chair Dukes said she will entertain a motion, with the exception of agreement and</u>

policy that the Regents have asked to pull off the consent agenda, which are beverage agreement and faculty workload policy.

- Chair Dukes asked for a motion for approval of the other policies as well as the meeting minutes from previous meetings, including January 2026; February 13, 2026 regular board meeting; February 12 regular committee meetings; and the March 3 and March 26 special called meetings. Regent Fields made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction of the name of Ms. Deanna McGaughey-Summers in the January 23 meeting minutes.
- Chair Dukes asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Regent Fields made the motion to accept the minutes as they are with one correction and the policies and the agreement. Chair Dukes said with the exception of those two items they have to pull out, the meeting minutes as well as the policies and property purchase has been approved. There were no dissenting votes. Motion Passed.

**4. Information and Action Items.**

**A. University Senate Reports.**

**I. Faculty Senate Report.** There was no faculty senate report.

**II. Staff Senate Report**. Presented by Ms. Jameelah Means, staff senate vice president.

- Ms. Means said they will host the Juneteenth celebration on June 17, 2026, at the Student Center Courtyard. She said there will be local business vendors and an opportunity for the campus community to come together in celebration of this observance.
- Ms. Means said the staff senate is also preparing for its next round of elections and this information will be shared with the staff members in the coming weeks.
- She said in support of student success and campus engagement, the staff senate plans to collaborate with the Office of Housing and Residence Life to assist with the new student move-in.
- Regent Obielodan asked if it would be possible in the future to host a presentation by a student on the meaning and impact of June 19th with some kind of award for the winner.

**III. SGA Report (Information Item)**. Presented by Regent Cheyenne Rushing, Student Government Association President.

- Regent Rushing summarized her year of being SGA president as having a good year and also as a little iffy year trying to get the connection between the staff and the students to come back together.
- She said they recently went on a trip with the elected e-board where they learned about leadership and how to work as a team. She said they worked with other HBCUs and learned how to better connect to the students.
- Regent Rushing said the new elected executive board is trying to get the new constitution

approved and they have a lot of upcoming events for next year.

- Regent Hatchett suggested that there be an unequivocal statement of support to the success of KSU stated in the preamble of the Constitution. Regent Rushing said she will take that into consideration.
- Chair Dukes stated that Regent Rushing was terming out and a new regent would be coming on in August and she thanked Regent Rushing for her service and dedication to the board and the university.

**B. Division of Finance & Administration Updates.**

- Dr. Heather Bigard, Vice president of Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, turned it over to Omni Architect partners, who are working on the new Health Sciences Building.

i. **Health Sciences Center Design Phase A Approval.** Presented by Mr. Erik Zabilka and Ms. Brittany Leneave-Smoot of Omni Architects.

- Mr. Zabilka said they are at the end of the first phase of the design and have concluded the schematic design phase. Mr. Zabilka further stated that they are on schedule to have their work done by March of next year so that the project can be advertised for competitive bids. He said construction can begin as soon as the funds become available on July 1 of next year. He anticipates a construction process through the end of 2029 and the building ready for move in at the beginning of 2030.
- Ms. Leneave-Smoot said the chosen spot is at the current motor pool and old car wash location on Main Street. She further discussed details of the design and view of the building.
- Regent Obielodan asked if the design stage 3 allows for it, if there is any possibility of putting in decorative water fountains or any room for a conference center.
- Mr. Zabilka responded that it has been a topic of conversation. He said they have more need than the budget supports. He stated that there is a glass wall that separates a multi-purpose room from the entrance lobby with the idea that the wall can be opened for a special event. He said the idea is to make this room as flexible as possible for the largest number of potential uses, but it is not designed to be a conference center.
- Regent Obielodan asked if the funding is available, will the structure allow them to expand. Mr. Zabilka said the expansion would be a separate building rather than adding on to this building.
- Regent Hatchett and Chair Dukes asked about parking spaces. There was a general discussion on the parking spaces, which will number 14, and if it will impact parking for students, faculty and staff. Mr. Zabilka said there are no dedicated student parking spaces for this new building because there is parking within a 5-minute walking circle.
- Regent Fields asked if there was a consideration for data closets and if they are considering separate climate control. Mr. Zabilka said yes and further expanded on his response.
- Regent Obielodan asked if there is elevator service for all the floors and the response was

yes. Mr. Zabilka further expanded on his answer.

ii. **Council on Post-secondary Education.** Presented by Mr. Travis Powell and Mr. Greg Rush.

- Mr. Travis Powell, who is on the Council of Postsecondary Education, discussed CPE's role and working with KSU as part of Senate Bill 185, including the fact that CPE will approve any obligations for payments $20,000 or more. Mr. Powell said things that are tied to the budget to be adopted will not require additional approval. He said if they get a personnel list, a master position list with a list of the salaries that are tied with the budget, then payroll will be approved for anyone on that list. He further said if those positions become vacant at any point during the fiscal year, they can be refilled without additional approval as long as they are on the list and within those salary ranges. He said they can make adjustments to that as needed as long as the budget would support those.
- Mr. Powell said the same thing with contracts tied to the budget up to that amount and over $20,000. If they are tied to the budget, they will automatically be approved and when they get those lists and see how it works through the budget, then those will be deemed approved.
- Mr. Powell said they are making no policy decisions on the expenditures, but it's can you pay for it. He said that is what they will be focused on. He elaborated that they are just monitoring the budget and making sure that KSU has the funds available to make those payments before the obligations are incurred.
- Mr. Powell said CPE is also required to provide a quarterly report of the financial status of the university to the governor and legislature, which will come through a monthly report of finances that KSU will provide to them.
- Mr. Powell further discussed monitoring revenues and expenditures as the year goes on to adjust any approvals.
- Mr. Powell said the other item that they will receive a report on is a quarterly report from KSU for each outstanding balance in excess of $1,000 due by students.
- Regent Hatchett asked if the crux of the change for CPE is more prior rather than retrospective review and approval. Mr. Powell agreed that he summed it up perfectly and further said there are some expenditures where things come up and you aren't able to get pre-approval and they have a process for that.
- Regent Obielodan said that one of the conditions for removing financial exigencies is to demonstrate that they have sufficient financial cash flow and liquidity and is there a threshold set by CPE or the General Assembly for that. Greg Rush of CPE said that the General Assembly did not create a threshold and left it up to CPE. He said that is something they will work through over the next year or two. Mr. Rush said that one of the conditions that they will have to see is probably multiple years with the university not running a budget deficit, not dipping into reserves and building those reserves. He said once they've seen that pattern, CPE can determine the cash target. He said to be fair, it's probably not attainable in five years and they will have to come up with a threshold that they think is attainable and reasonable.

- Chair Dukes requested a motion to approve the design of Phase A of the Health Sciences Building. Regent Moyer made a motion to approve the design and Regent Obielodan seconded the motion. Regent Grimshaw abstained from voting because he was part of the design process to help plan for a potential future clinic. Motion was approved. There were no dissenting votes. Motion Passed.

iii. **FY26-27 Budget Proposal.** Presented by Dr. Heather Bigard.

- Dr. Bigard said they begin the budget process by identifying the priorities and then look at the resources available and ultimately reconcile the two to a balanced budget for the Board's consideration.
- She said the biggest influence on the budget this year was Senate Bill 185 of increasing the requirements around students making an initial payment to satisfy their obligation to the university at or below $1,000.
- Dr. Bigard summarized that they have done the following: taken a closer look at the organizational structure and staffing; looked closely at the 2027 enrollment projections along with academic program review process; looked at collections; looked at salaries and benefits and developed a master position list; prioritized vacancies; and looked at operating and contracts.
- She said enrollment is the initial basis of the budget in addition to appropriations. She summarized the spring 2026 enrollment population, which was a total of 2,873.
- As of June, the total number of freshmen that have completed application, accepted and registered for Fall 2026 is 189.
- Dr. Bigard said the are projecting a fall enrollment of 2,570. She said this is a nine percent decline from fall to fall and that it is for budgeting purposes.
- Dr. Bigard is projecting the Spring 2027 enrollment to be 2,285, which is a 20% decline from spring to spring for budgeting purposes.
- Regent Moyer asked what proportion of the 80% graduated. Dr. Bigard said they have that data but they do not have it handy.
- Dr. Bigard further discussed Senate Bill 185 in regards to collections and outstanding balances. She said they are working with an outside collection agency to turn over debt. She further said they cannot allow a student to come in unless they have made satisfactory payment arrangements to satisfy their debt down to $1,000. She further discussed in detail financial aid and student loans and communication with students.
- Regent Fields said he is concerned about enforcement. He said it bottlenecks their system when the students haven't done what they need to do and wonders how they are going to handle that at the time it occurs. Dr. Bigard responded.
- Regent Moyer had a comment on the 2026 budget uncollected amount. Dr. Bigard responded.
- Regent Hatchett said he had the same concerns about a column of budgeted numbers that contain some outliers that they know are not accurate, including: (1) uncollected student debt, (2) other income and (3) endowment in the revenues categories. He further stated that for total transparency and accountability, the minute you know a number is

wrong, they should change it in their budgeting process. Dr. Bigard responded. Regent Hatchett, Dr. Bigard and President Akakpo had a general discussion on this issue.

- Regent Moseley asked if they are going to start sending award letters out earlier so that students know what they are receiving from a financial aid standpoint, including students and athletes. Dr. Bigard responded.
- Regent Moseley said students are claiming that part of the reason they don't pay their bills is because at some point they get presidential waivers handed out and we have been clearing balances. He asked how many presidential waivers have been handed out this year and if this is an accurate statement. President Akakpo responded that is not an accurate statement and further responded to the question with examples.
- Regent Moseley asked if they can get a number of the presidential waivers handed out this year. President Akakpo and Dr. Bigard both responded that they can do that and further expanded on their response. Regent Moseley also asked to break that down as to how many international students are getting those versus domestic students as well.
- Regent Obielodan said one area that needs attention by the academic affairs division is the impact of debt collection on the students. He said there needs to be a policy on how long they can be out before they can come back or if they can come back at all. Dr. Bigard responded.
- Regent Obielodan also mentioned the significant decline in revenue and asked if it was a result of the projected decline in enrollment. Dr. Bigard responded yes.
- Regent Obielodan asked what items fall under other operating expenses and asked about the Magellan expenses. Dr. Bigard responded that she would compile that for him.
- Regent Obielodan asked if on behalf of staff and faculty if they can put a little bit of increases on salaries as there has been no salary increases for several years for faculty and staff.
- Regent Moyer commented that the housing revenue numbers and the complaints in the letters from students on the availability of housing for upper classmen are inconsistent as it looks like they have more capacity. President Akakpo responded that the complaints are not accurate. Chair Dukes also responded.
- Dr. Bigard summarized the budgets, including revenue and expenses. The projected 2026 net tuition and fees is $11.6 million and they are projecting $9.2 million for 2027. She said overall, the projection is going from $39 million in 2026 to $33.8 million in 2027 for revenue.
- She said for expenses, there will be a surplus of just over $3 million but they don't budget for a surplus in the following year.
- Dr. Bigard also discussed auxiliary and went into further detail on different items in the budget.
- Regent Obielodan said he would also like to not just see state appropriations for revenue but also federal. Dr. Bigard and President Akakpo responded.
- Regent Moyer commented on the progress in the monthly cash flow statements.
- Dr. Bigard produced a slide regarding how CPE will provide oversight to Senate Bill 185 as the university has to have their approval for a commitment of $20,000 or more in advance.

- Chair Dukes asked for a motion to approve the budget as it has been presented. Motion made by Regent Moyer. Regent Fields seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes. The 2027 budget was approved. Motion Passed.

iv. **Property Purchase (Approved via Consent Agenda)**. Presented by Dr. Heather Bigard.

- Dr. Bigard presented information on a piece of farm property to expand the College of Education program. The property consists of 70.15 acres in Midway with a list price of $1.6 million that has been approved by CPE.
- Dr. Marcus Bernard, dean of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, spoke on the project. Dr. Bernard said they needed additional farmland so that faculty has room for their projects as well as their graduate students. He said they have had 27 projects at their farm over the past 18 months and have added nine new faculty in the school.
- Regent Fields said he had concerns about the listing agent as a person that is employed here. Dr. Bernard said she accessed the land through the MLS real estate system, adding that she is not the listing agent for the land.
- Regent Hatchett asked about the process of getting the university to a very specific piece of property. Dr. Bernard said it's a general search and went into more specific details. Dr. Akakpo also responded.
- Regent Hatchett asked if it was located next to a data center. Dr. Bernard responded no.
- Regent Obielodan had a question regarding an equine science technology assistance degree program in the future. Dr. Bernard responded in detail.

v. **Beverage Agreement**. Presented by Dr. Heather Bigard.

- Dr. Bigard said they received a couple of bids for the beverage agreement and Pepsi was selected as the vendor at a total cost of $114,000 for year 1. It is $25,000 annually for years 2 through 5.
- Regent Moseley questioned if the university is getting any free products out of this or products at discounted rates. Dr. Bigard and Ms. Eileen Butts, director of purchasing, responded.
- Regent Hatchett asked if the two bids were close together or far apart. Ms. Butts said Pepsi offered three times as much as the other bidder.
- Chair Dukes asked for a motion for approval of the beverage agreement. Regent Fields made the motion. Regent Obielodan seconded the motion. No dissenting votes. The beverage contract was approved. Motion Passed.

vi. **Capital Construction Projects**. Presented by Jack McNear, Associate VP of Capital Planning and Facilities Management.

- Mr. McNear summarized the list of projects that are currently in progress and the budget for the projects. Those projects include ASB roof and windows, Carver Hall renovation, Chandler Hall renovation, Kentucky Hall renovation, Exum Center exterior repairs, Bell Gym exterior stairs, Hume Hall, Combs Hall renovation, McCullin Hall renovation and

Bradford Hall renovation.

- Regent Moseley had a question on the Exum basketball floor being down year-round. Mr. NcNear responded.
- Chair Dukes had questions on the McCullin Hall renovation completion dates. Mr. McNear responded.
- Chair Dukes and Regent Obielodan had questions on Bradford Hall renovation. Mr. McNear responded.
- Mr. McNear summarized the names of each residence hall; the cost per semester for each residence hall; the condition of each residence hall; and the student capacity of each residence hall.

5. **Athletics.** Presented by Grant Stepp, Athletics Director.

- AD Stepp thanked the coaches, who he said are some of the best recruiters.
- AD Stepp said the athletics department students finished another semester above a 3.0 cumulative GPA overall. He further stated that athletics had the valedictorian and the salutatorian this year with Ms. Zhakeya Hawkins and Mr. Keon Henderson. He further stated athletics department had 17 students with a 4.0 and more than 50 athlete students with a 3.5 or above.
- AD Grant also thanked Mr. and Mrs. Greene, who he said made a five-figure donation to athletics to help renovate the weight room. He said they will have a new weight room in August.
- He said Mr. Frank Taylor, the commencement speaker, also made a five-figure gift towards the band.
- AD Stepp further stated that they have dated equipment that doesn't need to be there and he has teams that do not have locker rooms and that they have to create a plan to get those students a locker room.
- He further discussed the importance of Artificial Intelligence in athletics and how it can make them more productive.
- Regent Obielodan mentioned the valedictorian and the salutatorian.

6. **Human Resources**. Presented by Kendra Herve, Director of Human Resources.

- Ms. Herve said the university offers 24 staff holidays for the fiscal year 2027 and presented the staff holiday schedule.

7. **Legal and Personnel Matters (Closed Session).**

- Chair Dukes said they are getting ready to go into closed session to discuss some legal related matters.
- General Counsel Sergent said they need to go into closed session under KRS 61.810(1)(c),(f), and (m) for proposed and pending litigation, personnel matters that may result in appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee, member or

student and to discuss records exempted from disclosure under KRS 61.878(1)(m).

- Chair Dukes asked for a motion to go into closed session. Regent Fields made the motion to go into closed session. Regent Obielodan seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**8. Re-convening to open session.**

- Chair Dukes asked for a motion to go back into open session. Regent Fields made a motion and it was seconded by Regent Moyer. Motion Passed.

**9. Division of Academic and Student Affairs.**

- **Academic Affairs Update**. Chair Dukes said they are going to approve the faculty workload policy as an interim policy and allow for the 30 days for comments, concerns and modifications and then come back and do a final approval on the actual policy. Chair Dukes asked for a motion to approve the interim Faculty Workload Policy. Regent Moyer made a motion to approve the interim policy and it was seconded by Regent Fields. There were no dissenting votes. The interim policy was approved with commentary from Regent Obielodan.
- Regent Obielodan said he submitted an analysis and recommendation and he would like to see that factor into the final policy that will be discussed later. Motion Passed.

**10. Closing remarks.**

- Chair Dukes gave closing remarks reflecting on her time as an alumna and chair of the Board of Regents. Chair Dukes touched on a range of subjects including inaccurate information pertaining to a policy that prohibits juniors and seniors from living on campus solely because of their classification.
- She further stated that certain conduct has no place at KSU. She said that drugs, firearms and other violations of university policy threaten the safety and well-being of the campus community.
- She said questions on account balances, refunds, scholarships or reimbursements are often specific to each student and should be directed to the Office of Student Accounts.
- She reiterated that KSU is moving forward with a continued commitment to transparency, accountability, student success and the proud legacy of the institution.

**11. Adjournment.**

- Regent Dukes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Regent Fields made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Regent Moseley.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

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| Nicole Sergent, Secretary | Regent Tammi Dukes, Chair |
| Board of Regents | Board of Regents |
| Kentucky State University | Kentucky State University |

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