

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
April 25, 2024

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on April 25, 2024, at 2:57 p.m. in Room B108 at the Missouri Innovation Campus (MIC) in Lee's Summit, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board President Kenneth Weymuth. Others participating in the meeting from MIC Room B108 were Governors Stephen Abney, Gus Wetzel II, John Collier, Mary Dandurand, Phyllis Chase, Stu Rogers, and Hadley Oden, as well as University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer.

Note: Board members toured the MIC and participated in the MIC Founder's Day celebration before the Committee meetings.

Call to Order - Agenda Item No. 1

Mr. Weymuth called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present to conduct business.

Remarks by the Board President – Agenda Item No. 2

Mr. Weymuth welcomed everyone in attendance and expressed appreciation to the MIC staff for the tour of the facility provided to the Board earlier in the day and for hosting the meeting. Mr. Weymuth noted it was an important reminder of the strong relationship UCM has shared with the Lee's Summit community for many years, which has enabled the university to expand higher education opportunities to the region. In reflecting on news reports of unrest and protests currently taking place on other college campuses across the nation, Mr. Weymuth shared how appreciative he was to be able to attend the Founder's Day celebration on the main campus in Warrensburg the day prior and commented on what a refreshing opportunity it was to be able to enjoy the company of faculty, staff, and students.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best formally welcomed the Board to the UCM Lee's Summit campus at the MIC and shared he was grateful for the opportunity to meet here, which coincided with the UCM Founder's Day celebration marking 153 years of existence as an institution. President Best noted this time of year is a season of celebration with many opportunities to recognize the achievements of several outstanding individuals. The celebrations will culminate with commencement, where there are anticipated to be 2,000 graduating students in attendance.

President Best expressed condolences on behalf of the university for the passing of Christy Millen, a UCM staff member who served as a producer for KMOS. President Best acknowledged her many contributions to the university and noted she was a tremendous, creative asset to KMOS who will be missed.

Introductions and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 4

- *Byler Faculty Award* - Provost Phil Bridgmon introduced the 2024 Byler Distinguished Faculty Award recipient Dr. Kristy Boney, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Interdisciplinary Studies, to the Board, and a video representing the many reasons she was selected for the award was shown. Board President Weymuth and President Best presented Dr. Boney with a plaque and had a photograph taken with her.
- *Charno Award Recipients* – Dr. Shari Bax, Vice President for Student Experience and Engagement, introduced the 2024 Charno Award recipients, Kristen De Napoli and Ashlee Bieker, who both majored in Elementary Education and Early Childhood. Ms. De Napoli graduated in December 2023 and is currently employed in the Odessa school district. Ms. Bieker will graduate in May 2024 and is completing her student teaching in the St. Louis area. While Ms. De Napoli and Ms. Bieker were unable to join the Board meeting due to their teaching commitments, Dr. Bax shared they will be in attendance at the spring commencement ceremonies where they will provide remarks.
- *Education for Service Award Recipients* – Introductions were made of three individuals receiving the Education for Service Award. Student recipient Ms. Halle Theno was introduced by Dr. Bax; faculty recipient Dr. Melissa Abner was introduced by Dr. Daniel Wolcott, Faculty Senate President; and staff recipient Mr. Jeff Murphy was introduced by Mr. Ed Wirthwein, Staff Council President. Each recipient was presented with a plaque and had photographs taken with Board President Weymuth and President Best.

Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 5

President Best said the following individuals qualify for emeritus status in accordance with the revised BOG Policy 2.1.070 – *Privileges Extended to Emeriti and Retired Employees* (Attachment 1):

- Dr. Douglas Hatridge (June 2, 2003 – June 30, 2014), Assistant Director, Central Regional Professional Development Center
- Mr. Jeff Murphy (September 11, 1989 – April 30, 2024), Director of University Communications
- Mr. Richard Wilbur (December 3, 1998 – April 30, 2024), Custodian

Mr. Collier moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Douglas Hatridge, Jeff Murphy, and Richard Wilbur. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously. Photographs were taken of Board President Weymuth, President Best, and Emeriti Association President Dr. Doug Thomas presenting Mr. Murphy with a Certificate of Recognition. Certificates will be mailed to Dr. Hatridge and Mr. Wilbur as they were unable to attend.

Plenary Session

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 6

Mr. Weymuth asked for a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Action

- March 18, 2024, Special Plenary Session and March 21, 2024, Plenary Session minutes;
- A new Education Specialist, Special Education graduate degree program effective Spring 2025 pending approval by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) (Attachment 2);
- A new Agricultural Safety undergraduate certificate effective Fall 2025 pending approval by the MDHEWD CBHE and the HLC (Attachment 3);
- A new Agritourism undergraduate certificate effective Fall 2025 pending approval by the MDHEWD CBHE and the HLC (Attachment 4);
- A new Greenhouse Management undergraduate certificate effective Fall 2025 pending approval by the MDHEWD CBHE and the HLC (Attachment 5);
- A new Precision Agriculture undergraduate certificate effective Fall 2025 pending approval by the MDHEWD CBHE and the HLC (Attachment 6);
- Award of contract to Godard & Son Roofing Company Inc. for \$550,921 to provide all labor, materials, and provisions necessary for the replacement of the Administration Building roof (Attachment 7);
- Addition of the Talent Management Suite modules, powered by NEOED to the Ellucian contract from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, for a total cost of \$426,494 (Attachment 8); and
- Award of a three (3)-year contract to Encoura for a total estimated cost of \$1,297,577 to provide Top-of-Funnel prospecting and marketing services for first-time-in-college undergraduate recruitment (Attachment 9).

Information Items

- FY 2024 Third Quarter Investment Report (Attachment 10); and
- FY 2024 Third Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenses (Attachment 11).

Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.

Reports/Updates

Verbal Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 7

- *Faculty Senate (FS)*: Dr. Daniel Wolcott, Faculty Senate President, provided an update on the FS activities that included:

- The FS Office Professional position has been filled by Kirsti Rossmiller and permanent office space for the FS was identified in the Lovinger Building.
- The FS's primary goal for the year was to review and revise the faculty workload policy. In January, FS unanimously recommended forwarding the revised policy to the administration for consideration. Dr. Wolcott thanked President Best for his thoughtful consideration and for forwarding it to the provost for continued review and consideration.
- The closing FS session for the current academic year was held on April 17, 2024, and was immediately followed by the opening session for the next academic year. The new FS Executive Committee members are President Jaimee Hartenstein; Vice President Kyle Constant; CAHSS Representative Shannon Johnson; HCPBS Marlys Peck; COE Representative Kris Schuler; CHST Representative Mahmoud Yousef; Library Representative Kyle Constant; and Parliamentarian Daniel Wolcott.
- Staff Council (SC): Mr. Ed Wirthwein, Staff Council President, provided an update on the SC activities that included:
 - The SC constitution and bylaws have been reviewed and updated to reflect current staffing.
 - A SC Staff Training Day was held in February 2024 which was attended by 200 staff members and included sessions regarding the HLC visit, master plan, Care to Act, and other areas.
 - Mr. Wirthwein thanked President Best for hosting Pastries with the President events that provided staff with the opportunity to ask him questions directly.
 - The SC regularly invites guest speakers to monthly meetings and highlighted the following departments that have presented this year Financial Aid, Success Advising, Facilities Planning and Operations, and Governmental Relations.
 - SC elections are currently taking place, and the results will be announced at the Staff Appreciation Breakfast in May 2024 along with the recipients of the JP Mees and Outstanding Staff awards and Human Resources years of service recognition.
- Student Government Association (SGA): Ms. Hiba Lukadi, Student Government Association President, provided an update on the SGA activities that included:
 - SGA awarded Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith the 2024 Excellence in Governance Award and Ms. Courtney Swoboda the 2024 Excellence in Service Award at a ceremony held on April 16, 2024. Ms. Lukadi highlighted other traditional events held this spring including SGA Day at the Capitol, Memorial Service, Inauguration, and a Know Your Rights event.
 - The SGA University Issues Committee has been working on a student engagement survey to identify the needs of students, and the committee also reached out to student organizations to provide additional information about SGA.
 - The SGA Executive Officers for next year are President Karlie Franklin; Vice President Nora Van Asten; and Secretary Donovan Hoyes.

- The Health Center fee passed in the SGA election, which will use student fees to help with the promotion of student health items.

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 8

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, provided a legislative update (Attachment 12) that included the following highlights:

- FY 2025 Missouri Budget – The budget must be complete by May 10, 2024, and the regular legislative session will end on May 17, 2024. The Senate Appropriations Committee reviewed the budget recommendations that the House provided them this week and restored the core funding increase back to 3% as recommended by Governor Parson. If this passes in the Senate, this item will go to the Conference Committee held during the week of May 6-10, 2024. Both the House and Senate kept the transformational projects in the budget as recommended by Governor Parson, which for UCM is the \$9.95 million for the Humphreys Building renovation. UCM’s MoExcel project for the expansion of extended reality education is ranked number one on the project list and should be funded.
- Policy and Legislation – Notification was received just before the start of the Board meeting that an omnibus higher education bill was in the works that would add House Bill (HB) 2310 to HB 1659. HB 2310 deals with the Higher Education Curriculum Transfer Act and would increase the number of credit hours automatically transferring from 42 to 60. Other bills currently being monitored are HB 2905 by Representative Brenda Shields, which deals with the funding formula for higher education; Senate Bill (SB) 1401 by Senator Rusty Black, which would establish a cap on the MOSERS contributions for COPHE institutions; and HB 2166 by Representative Bill Hardwick and SB 1322 by Senator Sandy Crawford relating to higher education assistance for Missouri.
- Legislative Meetings and Visits – Mr. Pearce provided an overview of Governor Parson’s visit to the UCM campus on Monday, April 8, 2024, where he toured the W.C. Morris lab renovations, saw the Humphreys Building transformational project, visited with students in the Military and Veterans Success Center, and hosted a book signing. Several student groups have visited the Missouri State Capitol during the 2024 session including students from the Marriage and Family Therapy and Social Work programs, Rotary Scholar Muritala Ayinla, the Student Government Association, and international students as part of International Education Day. Students from the Muleskinner also met with the Missouri Rail Passenger Advisory Committee (MORPAC) to discuss a backpack journalism program. Mr. Pearce highlighted meetings President Best recently had with Missouri Department of Mental Health Director Valerie Huhn, Representative Richard Brown, Senator Curtis Trent, and UCM Alum Brian Farmer, the Chief of Staff for Senator Barbara Washington.
- Upcoming Events – Congressman Mark Alford will host the 4th Congressional District Art Show and Military Academy reception on campus this weekend. On May 8, 2024, the MIC has been asked to present before the Missouri House Workforce and Infrastructure Development Committee.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 9

President Best stated that he shared the HLC team’s final visit report with the Board, which will also be distributed to campus. He acknowledged the great work of UCM’s faculty and staff over the past ten years that led to the HLC review team’s recommendation that no interim monitoring was needed. President Best shared that the staff in Student Financial Services and the Office of Admissions are working very hard to process financial aid award letters and had packaged just under 1,700 by close of business the day before. He expressed his appreciation for their great work. President Best reported the number of completed FAFSAs is down by about a third of the applications that would have normally been received at this point, with 30% of those being current students who previously filled out the FAFSA. He noted that the staff is monitoring this very closely and working to communicate with students.

Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement

Ms. Dandurand, Chair of the Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement, reported the Committee met earlier in the day and received a report from the UCM Alumni Foundation about alumni engagement and events. Ms. Dandurand expressed her appreciation for all they are doing to engage alumni.

Board Committee on Academic Affairs

Dr. Wetzel, Chair of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, said the Committee met earlier in the day and noted the specialty of the new degree and certificates that were approved on the Consent Agenda.

Board Committee on Finance and Administration

Mr. Collier, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, reported the Committee met earlier in the day noting the seven items discussed were approved on the Consent Agenda.

Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget – Agenda Item No. 10

Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, presented the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Operating Budget (Attachment 13) to the Board for approval contingent upon the final budget reconciliation in June 2024 that was discussed in detail during the Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole. *Mr. Collier moved that the Board of Governors approve the FY 2025 Operating Budget, contingent upon the final budget reconciliation in June 2024. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzel and carried unanimously.*

Board Business

Appointment of Nominating Committee – Agenda Item No. 11

Board President Weymuth announced the appointment of Dr. Wetzel and Ms. Dandurand to serve as the Nominating Committee for the FY 2025 Board Officers. A recommendation will be presented at the June Board meeting.

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 12

Dr. Chase expressed her thanks to the Board and President Best for the opportunity to attend the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) National Conference on Trusteeship. She highlighted topics of interest from the conference that included return on investment for students and how they will benefit after completing their degree as well as Board development and assessment. President Best thanked the Board members for their willingness to attend and participate in Board development.

Request for Closed Session – April 25, 2024 – Agenda Item No. 13

Ms. Dandurand moved pursuant to the Missouri Revised Statutes, Section 610.021, that the UCM Board of Governors resume meeting in closed meeting, with closed record and closed vote, for the purpose of considering real estate matters, legal actions, contractual matters, personnel matters, and other matters included under Section 610.021 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collier and carried with the following roll call vote:

<i>Gus Wetzel</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>John Collier</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Stephen Abney</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Mary Dandurand</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Phyllis Chase</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Ken Weymuth</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Stu Rogers</i>	<i>aye</i>		

Adjourn – Agenda Item No. 14

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 4:15 p.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 5:17 p.m., and *Mr. Collier made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.* The Board adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

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Attachments Listing

<u>Attachment No.</u>	<u>Attachment Description</u>
1	Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions
2	New Graduate Program – Ed.S., Special Education
3	New Undergraduate Certificate – Agricultural Safety
4	New Undergraduate Certificate – Agritourism
5	New Undergraduate Certificate – Greenhouse Management
6	New Undergraduate Certificate – Precision Agriculture
7	Administration Building Roof Replacement
8	Ellucian Talent Management Suite, Powered by NEOED
9	Top-of-Funnel Recruitment Name Provider and Marketing Firm Services
10	FY 2024 Third Quarter Investment Report
11	FY 2024 Third Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenses
12	Legislative Update
13	Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget