

**University of Central Missouri**  
**Board of Governors**  
**Plenary Session**  
**October 24, 2024**

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on October 24, 2024, at 11:15 a.m. in Union 237B on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board President John Collier. Others participating in the meeting from Union 237B were Governors Stephen Abney, Phyllis Chase, Mary Dandurand, Stu Rogers, Gus Wetzell II, and Ken Weymuth and Student Governor Hadley Oden, as well as University President Roger Best; Ms. Hayley Hanson of Husch Blackwell, representing the General Counsel; and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer.

**Call to Order** - Agenda Item No. 1

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

**Remarks by the Board President** – Agenda Item No. 2

Mr. Collier welcomed those attending the meeting in person and watching online. He noted that Homecoming is a very special time that brings a lot of visitors and enthusiasm to campus. Mr. Collier introduced Ms. Hanson, Partner at Husch Blackwell, who participated in the meetings on behalf of UCM General Counsel Lindsay Chapman who was unavailable due to a conflicting work commitment.

**Remarks by the University President** – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best reviewed the Homecoming schedule, noting that the university's education for service motto is reflected in the opportunities for students to participate in service activities, such as donation creation and the blood drive, during the first part of the week. The second half of the week is filled with celebrations, such as recognizing the Distinguished Alumni recipients and home games for football, soccer, and volleyball. He thanked everyone who organized and participated in the Homecoming events.

**Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions** – Agenda Item No. 4

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

- Peggy Harrison (November 1, 2004 – September 30, 2024), Director, Technology Operations
- Gary Schmidt (December 30, 1992 – September 30, 2024), Police Sergeant

*Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Peggy Harrison and Gary Schmidt. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzell and carried unanimously. Photographs were taken of Board President Collier and President Best presenting a certificate to Peggy Harrison. A*

certificate will be mailed to Gary Schmidt, as he could not attend. President Best introduced Patrick Bradley, who attended the meeting on behalf of the Emeriti and Retiree Association.

### **Plenary Session**

#### **Consent Agenda** – Agenda Item No. 5

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

#### **Action**

- August 22, 2024, Plenary Session minutes
- Commitment of up to \$725,000 to purchase a new single engine Cessna 172S aircraft for the purpose of flight training for the Aviation Program (Attachment 2)
- Award of contract to U.S. Bank to operate and manage a full-service bank branch in the Elliott Student Union beginning on June 1, 2025, for five (5) years with an option for an additional two (2) year renewal (Attachment 3)
- Award of contract to Centric Projects for \$517,223 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary for the completion of the Highlander Theatre orchestra pit stage lift replacement project (Attachment 4)
- Award of contract to Southtown Glass, Inc. for \$925,895 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to complete the cooling tower removal and replacement and related work necessary for the completion of the W.C. Morris Building cooling tower replacement project (Attachment 5)
- Award of contract to Civic Elite Contracting Inc. in the amount of the base bid and alternate one and two for \$2,888,964 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to complete the renovation project as stated in the bid specifications for the T.R. Gaines Technology Building renovation (Attachment 6)
- Award of contract for the Skyhaven Airport Fuel Facility and Access Road to Genesis Environmental Solutions, Inc. for \$1,290,197.68 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to complete the project, pending Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) concurrence and successful receipt of all grant funds (Attachment 7)

#### **Information**

- FY 2025 First Quarter Investment Report (Attachment 8)
- FY 2025 First Quarter Financial Report (Attachment 9)
- Enrollment Census Report (Attachment 10)
- One- and Three-Year Program Updates (Attachment 11)

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

## **Reports/Updates**

### **Written Governance Groups Reports** – Agenda Item No. 6

Mr. Collier noted the written reports from the governance groups were included in the meeting packet (Attachment 12).

### **Legislative Update** – Agenda Item No. 7

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, provided a legislative update (Attachment 13) beginning with an overview of the upcoming election including the races, constitutional amendments, and proposition change that will be on the ballot. He reported no vetoes during the Veto Session held at the Missouri State Capitol on September 11, 2024, and that the day provided an opportunity for House and Senate members, such as Senator Denny Hoskins, to say farewell to their fellow legislators. The Johnson County CLIMB Class, which includes four UCM employees this year, also visited the Capitol that day.

Mr. Pearce shared highlights from recent events, including the Campaign Mall hosted by the UCM American Democracy Project; a meeting with MoDOT and the City of Lee's Summit Government Relations Committee regarding the importance of AMTRAK; a visit to the Mitchell Street and Prussing Farms by Kyle Wilkens, USDA Rural Development State Director; open house at Senator Eric Schmitt's North Kansas City office; and the Western District Missouri Court of Appeals hearings that were held on campus for the 25<sup>th</sup> year. *This Week in Missouri Politics* is filmed on campus by KMOS, and Mr. Pearce noted that three of the four panelists for the October 17, 2024, episode were UCM alums: Attorney Adam Sommer, Jackson County 1<sup>st</sup> District Legislator Manny Abarca IV, and Missouri State Representative Brad Pollitt.

Mr. Pearce announced that the Missouri House Special Interim Committee on Workforce Innovation and Technology would host a hearing on November 7, 2024, and they invited UCM to present. He stated congratulatory letters to newly elected legislators will be mailed following the election, and the pre-filing of bills for the upcoming legislative session will begin on December 1, 2024.

### **University Update** – Agenda Item No. 8

President Best stated the annual Status of Faculty Report (Attachment 14) and Office of Technology Report (Attachment 15) were distributed to the Board by email. President Best reported that he recently delivered the annual State of the University Address, which was followed by three staff and two faculty 'Pastries with the President' events. He explained these events allow the opportunity for questions and dialogue regarding relevant topics such as the master plan, background on the raises provided, and the work planned for the upcoming year.

### **University Metrics Report** – Agenda Item No. 8

President Best expressed his appreciation to the University Analytics and Institutional Research (UAIR) team for their assistance in preparing the Fall 2024 Institutional Metrics Report

(Attachment 16). He noted the report includes additional information for the Board for areas monitored in the background from an operational perspective, including course fill rate, on-campus housing occupancy, student credit hours by level, and student credit hours by college. President Best pointed out the substantial increase in the first-time full-time freshmen retention rate (retention rates by cohort chart for first-time freshmen, page 4) and stated the new First Year and Kickoff Experience programs along with the Career and Life Design approach collectively are impacting retention. He also highlighted an increase of six percentage points for the four-year graduation rate (as shown in the graduation rates by cohort chart, page 4). He stated that this increase surpasses the four-year target rate established in the Board-endorsed 2019 strategic plan, and progress is being made toward the six-year target rate.

President Best pointed out the chart on credit hours taught by faculty type (page 6) and reminded the Board that last year, he discussed the amount of hours taught by adjuncts, or part-time faculty, was an anomaly. As predicted, there has been normalization to that number for this year, with some of its moderation due to the addition of full-time faculty positions in areas that had significant growth including Computer Science, Cybersecurity, and Information Technology.

Mr. Abney noted the course fill rate is down significantly and asked when it should be addressed. President Best explained how the fill rate is determined and shared that it is looked at for space utilization. He shared that one of this year's institutional priorities is optimizing course scheduling and enrollment in courses. This review and alignment will ensure the courses offered are aligned with the curriculum and that the number of courses offered, when they are offered, and how many sections are offered is appropriate for the size of enrollment expected for a particular course.

Mr. Abney stated he was pleased with the university housing occupancy rates. President Best noted the apartments are full, but space is available in the residence halls. He suggested the Board is likely to see a recommendation in the coming months to start taking down some of the residence halls that have been closed for some time.

In response to a question from Mr. Collier, President Best clarified that the dual credit instructors were not included in the adjunct faculty numbers on the credit hours taught by faculty type chart (page 6) because it is not an accurate reflection of what the true staffing is for campus provided face-to-face, online, and hybrid classes.

### **Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement**

The Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement did not meet this month. Committee Chair Mary Dandurand stated she expects to have a Homecoming report at the next meeting.

### **Board Committee on Academic Affairs**

The Board Committee on Academic Affairs did not meet this month.

**Board Committee on Finance and Administration**

Mr. Stu Rogers, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, expressed appreciation for those serving on the Committee. Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, was asked to present the following agenda item.

**External Audit Report** – Agenda Item No. 10

A draft external audit report (Attachment 17) was presented in detail during the Work Session held earlier in the day.

*Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors accept the draft external audit report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.*

**Board Business**

**Proposed Naming** – Agenda Item No. 11

President Best recommended to the Board the honorary naming of Martin Building Room 334, the “Professor G.B. Crump Reading Room” in recognition of Dr. Gail Crump, Professor Emeritus of English (Attachment 18). President Best provided an overview of Dr. Crump’s service and generosity to the university, which began in 1969 as a faculty member and has continued into his retirement.

*Dr. Wetzel moved that the Board of Governors approve the naming of Martin Building Room 334 the “Professor G.B. Crump Reading Room” in honor of Dr. Gail Crump. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.*

**Other Business** – Agenda Item No. 12

There was no other business to discuss.

**Request for Closed Session – October 24, 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. Abney 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>Stu Rogers</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Ken Weymuth</i>	<i>aye</i>		

**Adjournment** – Agenda Item No. 14

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 11:50 a.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 2:05 p.m., and *Mr. Abney made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

**University of Central Missouri  
Board of Governors  
Plenary Session  
October 24, 2024  
Attachments Listing**

<b><u>Attachment No.</u></b>	<b><u>Attachment Description</u></b>
1	Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions
2	Purchase of Aviation Program Aircraft
3	Elliott Student Union Banking Services
4	Highlander Theatre Orchestra Pit Stage Lift Replacement
5	W.C. Morris Building Cooling Tower Replacement
6	T.R. Gaines Technology Building Renovation
7	Skyhaven Airport Fuel Facility and Access Road
8	FY 2025 First Quarter Investment Report
9	FY 2025 First Quarter Financial Report
10	Enrollment Census Report
11	One- and Three-Year Program Updates
12	Written Governance Groups Reports
13	Legislative Update
14	Status of Faculty Report
15	Office of Technology Report
16	Institutional Metrics Report Fall 2024
17	External Audit Report
18	Naming of Space