

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
April 27, 2023

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on April 27, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Union 237B on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board President Kenneth Weymuth. Others participating in the meeting from Union 237B were Governors Stephen Abney, Gus Wetzel II, and John Collier, as well as University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Monica Huffman. Governor Marvin E. Wright participated in the meeting via conference call. Governor Mary Dandurand was unable to participate in the meeting and was excused.

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 at the meeting and those viewing it via the livestream. He commented on the Founder's Day activities held during the lunch period and expressed excitement about UCM's Master Plan presented during an earlier Work Session. Mr. Weymuth's other remarks included the new hire of Basketball Coach Adam Bohac; Mules Baseball 6th place national ranking; and the search for a new Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics. In closing he showed a media clip of President Best interacting with students and commented the Board is proud to have a president appreciated by students and employees.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best made remarks about Founder's Day whose official date is April 27. He commented about today's celebration and said a special thank you to those who planned the event and to those who participated including the Board. He noted this is a special time of the year and in reflecting back on the last 152 years, it is the contributions of thousands of people throughout the years who have brought us to the place where we are today. President Best noted that because April 27 will fall on Saturday next year, Founder's Day will be celebrated Wednesday, April 24, 2024, on the main campus, and in Lee's Summit on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

President Best reminded the Board that at the March meeting Dr. Michelle Amos, 2023 Governor's Excellence in Education Award recipient was recognized. Dr. Best showed a video about Dr. Amos, which was in production at the time of the March meeting and not available for viewing.

Introductions and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 4

- *Byler Faculty Award* – Provost Bridgmon shared information about the Byler Distinguished Faculty Award, the highest recognition for UCM faculty members presented each spring. The 2023 recipient, Dr. Scott Strohmeyer, Professor of Kinesiology, was introduced to the Board and a video representing the many reasons he was selected for the award, was shown. Board President Weymuth and President Best presented Dr. Strohmeyer with a plaque and had a photograph taken with him. Dr. Strohmeyer will be recognized during Spring Commencement.
- *Charno Award* - Dr. Shari Bax, Vice President for Student Experience and Engagement, introduced the 2023 Charno Award recipients, Paige VanBlarcum and Cade Tremain. Paige VanBlarcum will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics degree. Cade Tremain will also graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. Both individuals were congratulated by Board President Abney and President Best and had photographs taken. These students will be recognized during their respective Commencement ceremonies in May.
- *Education for Service Award* – Introductions were made of three individuals receiving the Education for Service Award. Student recipient Caitlin Dudenhoeffer was introduced by Dr. Bax; faculty recipient Dr. Scott Chenault was introduced by Dr. Daniel Wolcott, Faculty Senate President; and staff recipient Darin Plummer was introduced by Mr. Ed Wirthwein, Staff Council President. Each recipient was presented a plaque and had photographs taken with Board President Weymuth and President Best.

Emeritus Status Request and Recognition – Agenda Item No. 5

Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Administration, introduced Mr. Randy Beers who will retire on April 30, 2023, after 22 years and 6 months of dedicated and faithful service to the University of Central Missouri (Attachment 1). Mr. Beers qualifies for emeritus status in accordance with Board of Governors Policy 2.1.070 -- Privileges Extended to Emeriti and Retired Employees. *Mr. Collier moved that the Board of Governors award emeritus status to Mr. Randy Beers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.* Photographs were taken of Board President Weymuth and President Best presenting Mr. Beers with a Certificate of Recognition.

Plenary Session

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 6

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

Action

- Approval of the March 23, 2023, Plenary Session minutes; and

- Award of contract to MAS Construction LLC in the amount of \$543,205.00 to provide all labor, materials, and provisions necessary for the replacement of flooring and related services in the Elliott Student Union (Attachment 2).

Information

- FY 2023 Third Quarter Investment Report (Attachment 3); and
- FY 2023 Third Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenses (Attachment 4)

Mr. Abney made a motion for the Board to approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collier and carried unanimously.

Reports/Updates

Verbal Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 7

Governance groups’ leaders provided an update on the activities of their respective groups –

Faculty Senate (FS) – Dr. Wolcott, FS President, stated his appreciation of shared governance at UCM, noting this is not the case at all higher education institutions in the state. He also expressed appreciation for the support he has received as FS President from President Best and others. FS officer elections were held in April; he was elected President for another year, as was Jaimee Hartenstein as FS Vice President. Some of the matters FS focused its attention on this year include academic procedures; the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation visit next year; workloads and equity; and how the faculty evaluation and promotion processes link to the workload process.

Staff Council (SC) – Mr. Ed Wirthwein, Staff Council President, highlighted some of SC’s activities this spring including a training day where approximately 130 staff participated; selection of the JP Mees Award recipient and Outstanding Staff Award recipient, both of which will be recognized at a Staff appreciation breakfast in May; and assisting with the preparation for next year’s HLC accreditation visit.

Student Government Association (SGA) - Mr. Cade Tremain, SGA President, introduced the 2023-2024 SGA President Hiba Lukadi who was present at the meeting. He also announced that Dalton White was reelected SGA Vice President, and 23 new members will be inaugurated for the 2023-2024 academic year. Mr. Tremain reviewed SGA’s spring activities that included discussions with Public Safety about security measures on campus; honoring Dr. Mary Long as SGA’s Excellence in Governance Award recipient and Dr. Lover Chancler as SGA’s Excellence in Service Award recipient; SGA Day at the Capital; a memorial service for individuals who have passed away during the past year; and hosting a sustainable clothes drive during Earth Week. During its last legislative meeting, SGA passed three items, two of which will be ballot items in the fall. The first ballot item will be to include promotional materials within the student health fee (inclusion of promotional materials would not be any additional cost); and the second ballot item will be for a new student fee to create a student financial and wellness center to help students navigate student loans and other financial aid matters. The SGA also passed legislation to gift an art piece to the University whose theme will be “*Resilience Overall*” reflecting how current UCM students have seen the full effect of the Covid-19 pandemic before, during, and after.

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 8

Mr. Pearce provided a legislative update that included the following highlights –

State

- FY 2024 Missouri Budget – The budget must be complete by May 5 and the regular session will end on May 12. Governor Parson proposed a 7-percent increase to core funding for public Higher Education institutions. The House proposed a 5-percent core increase and a 2-percent increase based on performance funding. The Senate proposed a 7-percent increase. Because there is a difference in the proposals, a conference committee comprised of five representatives and five senators will meet to resolve the difference. Since there are no performance standards established, most likely the 7-percent increase will pass. Also included in the budget is funding for a 25-percent increase for transformational projects. For UCM this would mean \$9.95 million for renovating the Humphreys Building. Additionally, \$1.5 million was restored to support UCM’s MoExcels project. Representative Houx and Senator Hoskins helped get the funding restored in the Senate Appropriations Committee for MoExcels.
- Ongoing legislation that could potentially affect this legislative session includes youth transgender and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion topics. Governor Parson announced that he would call a special session if youth transgender issues are not addressed during this session.
- Several UCM student groups visited the Missouri State Capitol during the 2023 session including Student Government Association, Rotary Scholar Nonye Nnabuike, Marriage and Family Therapists, Speech-Language Therapists, and international students.
- *This Week in Missouri Politics* continues to tape its shows at KMOS Studios approximately every 5-6 weeks.
- Elected officials visiting UCM’s campus include Senator Tony Luetkemeyer, and Representatives Ealy, Farnan, Haffner and Nurrenbern. Other officials visiting UCM campus include Julia Rives of the Missouri Attorney General’s office meeting with the Pre Law-Association, Mick Campbell Commissioner of Finance, Wyatt Fletcher-KC District Director For Governor Parson toured the Missouri Innovation campus.

Federal - President Best and Board President Weymuth attended the first annual AASCU On the Hill event in Washington, D. C. March 19-20. They met with Senator Schmitt and Congressmen Alford and Burlison. They also met with staffs of Senator Hawley and Representatives Luetkemeyer and Wagner.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 9

President Best provided a University Update that included –

- Approximately 2,000 students qualify for the conferring of their degrees at Spring Commencement.
- The Board had the opportunity to see the future vision of UCM through a presentation of UCM’s Master Plan in Work Session. President Best looks forward to working with the Board to conceptualize and make the plan a reality.
- The FY 2024 proposed budget will devote much of UCM’s additional income to employee compensation

- The Higher Learning Commission’s Accreditation visit will occur March 4-5, 2024. Noting there is still much work to be done in preparation for the visit, President Best expressed a special thanks to Dr. Tim Crowley and members of UCM’s HLC Team for all of their work.

Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement

The Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement did not meet this month. However, the Board toured the Roger Denker Wrestling Facility and the Anderson Family Locker Room.

Board Committee on Academic Affairs

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

Board Committee on Finance & Administration

Mr. Collier, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration Committee, reported the Committee met earlier in the day. He asked Mr. Hawley to present the following agenda items.

FY 2024 Operating Budget – Agenda Item No. 10

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 9 of the meeting materials that included the proposed FY 2024 Operating Budget that was presented and discussed in detail during an earlier Work Session (Attachment 5). Highlights of the budget include –

- More than \$5.3 million in changes to compensation and benefits costs as well as investments in new positions across campus with a reset of the campus minimum wage for all full-time employees to \$14 per hour from the current \$13 per hour;
- More than \$1.1 million in additional investment in maintenance, repair, capital projects and facilities enhancements through the general fund;
- A reset of the student worker minimum wage to \$12.75 per hour;
- A \$430,000 allocation to account for increased international student recruitment fees;
- Approximately \$713,000 in expected contractual and property insurance increases;
- More than \$131,000 allocated for strategic and other initiatives;
- \$300,000 for additional utilities expenses; and
- Other internal reallocations to facilitate strategic initiatives

Mr. Abney noted that during the Work Session Mr. Wright attempted to ask a question about the FY 2024 budget, but due to technical difficulties was unable to be heard. He posed a question on Mr. Wright’s behalf concerning when University reserves used as part of a planned deficit spending plan a few years ago would be replenished. President Best noted the initial plan was to utilize deficit spending over three years; however, it was only necessary do so for one year and less than \$10 million in reserves was used. By the end of FY 2023, this money will have been replenished into the reserves along with additional monies. Therefore, no funds were budgeted into the reserve for FY 2024. President Best said he will look into the exact amounts and provide information to the Board.

Mr. Collier moved that the Board of Governors approve the FY 2024 Operating Budget, contingent upon the final budget reconciliation in June. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.

Master Plan – Agenda Item No. 11

It was noted that the University Master Plan was presented and discussed during an earlier Work Session. *Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors accept the Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzel and carried unanimously.*

Board Business

Naming of Space – Agenda Item No. 12

President Best presented background information (Attachment 6), previously provided to the Board, for the proposed naming of the University of Central Missouri's Student Support Services Center, the **Harding Student Support Services Center** ("The Harding Center"). The proposed naming is in honor of UCM alumni Michael S. Harding (1969-1973) and the Harding family for their philanthropic investment in the Harding Family UCM Advantage Scholars Endowment that will help provide students from underserved backgrounds and circumstances additional opportunities to achieve success in their college journey, resulting in not only the successful obtainment of a college degree, but the acquisition of skills and confidence that guides them through graduation and into their careers.

*Dr. Wetzel moved that the Board of Governors approve naming the University of Central Missouri's Student Support Services Center the **Harding Student Support Services Center** ("The Harding Center"). The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.*

Proposed Deletion of BOG Policy 2.3.050 – Compensatory Time Off for Non-Exempt Employees – Agenda Item No. 13

Ms. Chapman discussed the proposed deletion of BOG Policy 2.3.050 – Compensatory Time Off (Attachment 7) in greater detail during an earlier Finance and Administration Committee meeting. If approved, all non-exempt employees working overtime will be paid in the pay period in which the overtime is worked at the appropriate overtime pay rate established by law. *Mr. Collier moved that the Board of Governors eliminate the comp time benefit including payout of accrued balances and authorize deletion of BOG Policy 2.3.050 – Compensatory Time Off for Non-Exempt Employees, effective June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.*

Appointment of Nominating Committee – Agenda Item No. 15

Mr. Weymuth announced the appointment Messrs. Abney and Collier to serve as the Nominating Committee for FY 2024 Board Officers. A recommendation will be presented at the June Board meeting.

Request for Closed Session – April 27, 2023 – Agenda Item No. 16

Mr. Collier moved pursuant to the Missouri Revised Statutes, Section 610.021, that the UCM Board of Governors meet 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 Dr. Wetzel and carried with the following roll call vote:

<i>Marvin E. Wright</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>John Collier</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Gus Wetzel</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Kenneth Weymuth</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Stephen Abney</i>	<i>aye</i>		

Adjourn – Agenda Item No. 17

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 2:25 p.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 4:10 p.m. and *Mr. Collier made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously. The Board adjourned at 4:11 p.m.*

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Attachments Listing

<u>Attachment No.</u>	<u>Attachment Description</u>
1	Emeritus Status Request and Recognition
2	Elliott Student Union Floor Replacement & Related Service Projects
3	FY 2023 Third Quarter Investment Report
4	FY 2023 Third Quarter Statement of Revenues & Expenses
5	FY 2024 Operating Budget
6	Naming of Space
7	Proposed Deletion of BOG Policy – 2.3.050 – Compensatory Time Off for Non-Exempt Employees