

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
April 22, 2021

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on April 22, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. in Union 237B on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board President Stephen Abney. Others participating in the meeting from Union 237B included Governors John Collier, Mary Dandurand, Gus Wetzel II, Kenneth Weymuth, and Zachary Racy. Governors Marvin E. Wright and Mary Long participated by phone. Staff participating from Union 237B were University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Monica Huffman.

Note: Due to the restriction on the number of people permitted in the meeting room, the Plenary Session was livestreamed.

Call to Order - Agenda Item No. 1

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

Remarks by the Board President – Agenda Item No. 2

Mr. Abney thanked individuals attending the meeting and those viewing the meeting via live stream. He said Board members received much information during today's committee meetings and thanked staff for their work in putting the presentations together. Mr. Abney noted Commencement is next week and said the Board looks forward to celebrating this special occasion with students and their families.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best expressed appreciation to students and faculty of the School of Visual and Performing Arts for their participation and performances in the President's Gala. The event was filmed at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and later streamed to viewers. He thanked UCM's digital media production team for all of their hard work to make the event possible.

President Best said protocols previously established for the campus in response to the Covid-19 pandemic are still in place. Vaccine clinics were held on campus for students and employees and more than 600 employees and 975 students participated. The clinic was also open to dependents.

President Best shared that during a Faculty Senate meeting the previous afternoon, concern was raised that UCM had not issued a formal statement concerning violent acts against Asians occurring in our nation over the past several months. He stated UCM does

not and will not tolerate this type of activity, and said immediate action would be taken to mitigate such matters if there was even a hint of this type of activity occurring at UCM against any group of individuals. He thanked the Faculty Senate for raising its concern to him.

In closing his remarks, President Best said the Board reviewed the FY 2022 Operating Budget during a Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole meeting earlier that morning. He described the FY 2022 budget as year two of a progress plan to balance the budget and expressed appreciation to the Board for providing two years to do so.

Recognition of Governor’s Excellence in Education Award Recipient – Agenda Item No. 4

Provost Bridgmon introduced Dr. Julie Hentges, Professor of Elementary Education and recipient of the 2021 Governor’s Excellence in Education Award. He explained the award was established by the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education to recognize faculty members who have excelled in their profession. A video reflecting the many reasons Dr. Hentges was selected to receive the award, was shown. Board President Abney and President Best presented a plaque to Dr. Hentges and had a photograph taken with her. Dr. Hentges will also be recognized during Spring Commencement.

Recognition of Byler Distinguished Faculty Award Recipient – Agenda Item No. 5

Provost Bridgmon shared information about the Byler Distinguished Faculty Award, the highest recognition for UCM faculty members presented each spring. The 2021 recipient, Dr. Fran Reddington, Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology, was introduced to the Board and a video representing the many reasons she was selected for the award, was shown. Board President Abney and President Best presented Dr. Reddington with a plaque and had a photograph taken with her. Dr. Reddington will be recognized during Spring Commencement.

Recognition of Charno Award Recipients – Agenda Item No. 6

Dr. Shari Bax reported that of the 1,700 students graduating this year, 22 were recently inducted into UCM’s “Who’s Who.” Of these 22 graduates, six were finalists for the 2021 Charno Award, named after George Charno, Sr., a Kansas City attorney who established the award in 1940 to recognize the top two outstanding members of the senior class. The two individuals selected for the 2021 award were Olivia Waddell of Olathe, Kansas and Zachary “Zac” Racy of Riverside, Missouri. Ms. Waddell will graduate summa cum laude with a Bachelor degree in Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies; and, Mr. Racy will also graduate summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Ms. Waddell was unable to attend the meeting; Mr. Racy, who is also student governor on UCM’s Board of Governors was present to receive the Board’s congratulations. Ms. Waddell and Mr. Racy will both be recognized during the Spring Commencement.

Recognition of Learning to a Greater Degree Award Recipients – Agenda Item No. 7

Ms. Susan Smedley introduced the Spring Learning to a Greater Degree Award recipients Dr. Angela Danley, Associate Professor in the College of Education and senior psychology major Sabreyna Reese. She shared information from their nominations. Each individual was presented a print commemorating the recognition and photographed with Board President Abney and President Best.

Plenary Session

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 8

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

Action

- Minutes of the March 25-26, 2021 Plenary Session Minutes; and
- Emeritus Status Request for Marcia Clemens, Dawna Butterfield, Michael Luehrman, Dennis Docheff, Rhonda McKee, Mary McCord, Russell Greinke, James Taylor, Carol Atkinson, Patrick Ament, Julie Mollenkamp, Lori Cochran, Frances Reddington, Candace Coey, and Deborah Galley (Attachment 1)

Information

- FY 2021 Third Quarter Investment Report (Attachment 2); and
- FY 2021 Third Quarter Statement of Revenue and Expenses (Attachment 3)

Mr. Collier moved that the Board of Governors approve the items presented as part of the Consent Agenda noted above. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzell and carried unanimously.

Reports/Updates

Verbal Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 9

Faculty Senate – Dr. Jim Loch, Faculty Senate President, began by thanking the Board for including faculty promotions in the FY 2022 budget, and University Administration for returning a percentage of the savings that resulted from employee furloughs and salary reductions. He also announced his term as Faculty Senate President is ending and that Rene' Burress will assume this role following Spring Commencement. Dr. Loch shared Faculty Senate has spent time this year working through the effects of four major issues – 1) the Covid-19 pandemic; 2) Retrenchment; 3) General Education review; and 4) equity matters. Consequently, many faculty are experiencing feelings of uncertainty and anxiousness. Acknowledging times are difficult, Dr. Loch commended President Best and Provost Bridgmon for the leadership they have provided.

Dr. Loch distributed a letter from Professor Michael Bersin made in response to the Provost's announcing during the previous day's Faculty Senate meeting that the Board welcomed additional feedback (Attachment 4).

President Best said it's been a pleasure working with Dr. Loch in his role as Faculty Senate President, and noted he always brought forward faculty concerns in the most professional manner. He thanked Dr. Loch for his leadership and his professionalism.

Staff Council - Ms. Jackie Jackson, Staff Council President, announced plans to introduce the J.P. Mees Award recipient and Outstanding Staff Award recipient at the June Board meeting. Staff Council elections were recently held, and new Council members will begin serving three-year terms effective July 1. Ms. Jackson cited some of the current Council's accomplishments over the past three years including a review and update of the Council's Bylaws; a Committee build-out that resulted in greater participation by non-Council members; and improved communications resulting in an average meeting attendance of 85%. Ms. Jackson closed her report by expressing appreciation for the 35% return of furlough/salary reductions savings to employees. President Best thanked Ms. Jackson for the report and for past invitations to attend Staff Council meetings.

Student Government Association – Mr. Justin Cobbs, Student Government Association President, said as the semester ends students are feeling tired due to the effects and implications of several matters including the pandemic; social injustices in the country resulting in violence and death; and UCM's enactment of Retrenchment. These are all issues that have impacted the students. Mr. Cobbs commended UCM's students for their resilience and perseverance over the past year.

Mr. Cobbs stated students appreciate the new tuition model approved by the Board in March. President Best noted the SGA reached out to five different student organizations to obtain feedback on the model, and all five groups were in favor of it. Mr. Cobbs reported the SGA held a body-wide election on April 13 and hosted a debate that resulted in good participation from the student body and more than 1,100 students voting in the election. He introduced SGA President-Elect Cade Tremain, and SGA Vice President Elect Makaila Mills, who will be sworn in on April 27. Mr. Cobbs will remain active in the SGA as a Congressional member.

President Best said it's been a pleasure working with Mr. Cobbs in his role as SGA President and said he looks forward to continuing to meet regularly with the incoming SGA President and Vice President. Mr. Racy added his appreciation to Mr. Cobbs and said he, too, would look forward to working with the new student leadership in the fall.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 10

President Best made a few remarks concerning Retrenchment, acknowledging it is a very difficult process that has a personal impact on colleagues.

He announced UCM will hold a Founder's Day picnic on April 27 as part of the University's Sesquicentennial celebration. Also, the Wind Ensemble will perform as part of the celebration at 7:00 p.m. this evening. Lastly, 10 Commencement ceremonies celebrating UCM's graduates will be held next weekend.

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 11

Mr. Pearce provided a legislative update. He stated the 2021 Legislative Session will end on May 14 and the budget must be done by May 7. Currently the budget is with the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee and must still go to the full Senate. It will go to the Conference Committee last to work through differences in the House and Senate budget proposals before it is submitted to the Governor. Mr. Pearce said Senator Denny Hoskins who sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee added COPHE's request for an additional 3.7% to the core for higher education. This was based on the Consumer Price Index for the past two years and would result in an additional \$2,047,519 for UCM, for a total of \$57.3 million. The House version of the budget cut MoExcel's funding, however, the Senate restored it for \$21.8 million. Mr. Pearce added UCM's Allied Health at the Missouri Innovation Campus for \$405,000 is at the top of the projects' list.

Senator Hoskins was able to add \$1 million to the budget for AMTRAK, and a change in language to provide more than one daily train in Warrensburg, which is important to UCM and its students. A new House Committee titled Federal Stimulus Spending Committee, chaired by Representative Doug Richey, was formed to review one-time funding requests for deferred maintenance. President Best testified before this committee on April 12 about UCM's request for \$21.5 million that includes the renovation and improvements to the historic buildings on the Quad (Administration, Humphreys, Ward Edwards and Dockery Buildings) and completion of upgrades to the W.C. Morris Science Building. This is expected to be a long-term process that will include additional hearings this summer.

UCM is tracking 26 bills, many of which have been amended onto other bills. Government Relations intern Michael Lewis testified before the Senate Education Committee on behalf of SB 265-Eslinger on requiring high school seniors to fill out the FAFSA. A week earlier, Zac Racy testified on a similar bill -- HB 101 -- in the House.

Mr. Pearce shared that on April 7, Board members Abney, Weymuth, Collier and Racy were part of a UCM delegation that traveled to the State Capitol to receive House and Senate Resolutions commemorating UCM's Sesquicentennial. While there, the group had the opportunity to meet with Attorney General Schmitt, Lieutenant Governor Kehoe and Treasurer Fitzpatrick.

On the federal level, UCM hosted Congresswoman Hartzler for two events last weekend. Regarding federal legislation, UCM is still awaiting direction from the Department of Education about proper use of American Rescue Plan Act funds. UCM will receive

\$21 million. Mr. Hawley said the student portion of both HEERF 1 and 2 funds have been disbursed and we are in the process of spending down the institutional portion of the funds. We will be very deliberate with expending American Rescue Plan Act funds once they are received, as there will be more time allowed to spend them.

Board Committee on Student Engagement & University Advancement

Ms. Dandurand, Chair of the Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement, reported the Committee did not meet this month.

Board Committee on Academic Affairs

Dr. Wetzel, a member of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, reported the Committee met earlier in the day discussed the progress of the General Education Review and Retrenchment. He commended President Best and all those involved for their work on two difficult matters.

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. During the meeting, UCM's investment firm provided a report and a presentation was made related to the bid process UCM uses for architectural and engineering services. He asked Mr. Hawley to present the next agenda item.

FY 2022 Operating Budget – Agenda Item No. 12

Mr. Hawley noted the FY 2022 Operating Budget (Attachment 5) was presented and discussed in depth during a Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole earlier in the day. Following a brief summary of the budget, *Mr. Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the FY 2022 Operating Budget contingent upon the approval of the HESFA tuition waiver by the Commissioner of Higher Education and no significant change in proposed state appropriations for UCM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collier and carried unanimously.*

Board Business

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 13

Mr. Abney announced his appointment of Governors Wright and Wetzel to serve as the Nominating Committee for FY 2022 Board Officers. A report and recommendation will be made at the June Board meeting.

Request for Closed Session – Agenda Item No. 14

Dr. Long moved pursuant to the Missouri Revised Statutes, Section 610021, 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 Mr. Collier and carried with the following roll call vote:

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

Adjournment – Agenda Item No. 15

Following the conclusion of the Board’s Closed Session at 3:45 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Collier to adjourn from open session and seconded by Ms. Dandurand. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting concluded at 3:47 p.m.

**University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
April 22, 2021**

Attachments Listing

<u><i>Attachment No.</i></u>	<u><i>Attachment Description</i></u>
<i>1</i>	<i>Emeritus Status Requests</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>FY 2021 3rd Quarter Investment Report</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>FY 2021 3rd Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenditures</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Letter from Professor Michael Bersin</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>FY 2022 Operating Budget</i>