

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Work Session
October 28, 2021

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Work Session on October 28, 2021, at 11:20 a.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 were Governors Mary Long, Mary Dandurand, Gus Wetzel II, Kenneth Weymuth, and Zachary Racy. Governor Marvin E. Wright participated by phone and Governor John Collier participated by Zoom. Staff participating from Union 237B were University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; Assistant Board Secretary Monica Huffman; staff members Dr. Phil Bridgmon, Dr. Shari Bax, Mr. Bill Hawley, and Dr. Brenda Moeder; and Mr. Kaleb Lilly of RubinBrown LLC.

Call to Order - Agenda Item No. 1

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

External Audit Report – Agenda Item No. 2

Mr. Hawley introduced Mr. Kaleb Lilly, partner of RubinBrown, LLC, UCM's external audit firm. Mr. Lilly reviewed the audit included under Tab 20 of the meeting packet. Highlights of the audit were listed in *Viewpoints*, also under Tab 20. The audit resulted in a clean opinion. Mr. Lilly stated the Office of Management & Budget requires HEERF dollars to be audited again, and his staff is still in the process of completing this audit. He anticipates it will be completed in the next week or two and ready for presentation at the December Board meeting.

Housing Update – Agenda Item No. 3

Drs. Bax and Moeder presented a Housing Update (Attachment). Dr. Bax shared it is estimated to cost \$19 million to \$24 million to renovate North Ellis Hall. A two-phase grant proposal was submitted for major renovations (aesthetic in nature) to residence halls. If UCM were to receive the grants, a number of improvements could be made. Dr. Bax said we should know by January if we are approved for the Phase I assessment grant. Mr. Abney asked if we should wait for a decision before going any further. Dr. Bax responded yes.

Mr. Weymuth asked if students are interested in suite-style living. Dr. Bax said a number of single rooms were set aside for freshmen students, and surprisingly, a number of these rooms remained open. She believes this is an indication not all students are interested in suite-style living. Mr. Abney asked about students' opinion of UCM's two-year residency requirement, and how many Missouri universities have the same. Dr. Bax answered there are students who would prefer the two-year residency requirement did not exist. With regard to the number of other Missouri state schools requiring two-year residency, she estimated two to three.

Mr. Weymuth also asked if there would be disadvantages to opening all types of housing to freshmen. Dr. Bax responded specific programming provided to freshmen would be hard to deliver, if for example, they were living in UCM apartments. Dr. Moeder added housing staff for UCM's apartments would also be very different.

Mr. Racy said housing staff provides great support to students residing in the halls, and feedback from students indicates overall they are happy; however, they would like to see updates made to the residence halls. It was noted that a number of universities are engaging with the private sector to renovate dormitories. Mr. Hawley stated there has been multiple conversations with developers; however, challenges exist related to limited revenue and The Crossings' bonds.

Census Data Enrollment Report – Agenda Item No. 3

Provost Bridgmon reviewed the Census Date Enrollment Report included under Tab 15 of the meeting materials. Highlights from the report included:

- Enrollment is up;
- UCM is the only institution out of 47 colleges and universities in Missouri to experience enrollment gains this fall across three particular segments – first-time freshmen, transfer, and international populations;
- Overall campus enrollment increased 5.7% (first increase in six years);
- New freshmen enrollment increased 6.8% (first increase in nine years);
- New transfer enrollment increased 8.6% (first increase in six years);
- Graduate enrollment increased 26.7%; and
- New international student enrollment increased 139%

Provost Bridgmon said efforts have been made to make campus visits more personal for prospective students. He added orientations are full not only for weekday sessions, but also for the Saturday visits that have been added. Events are being held for teachers, and sessions have been designed for special interest groups such as a group of 200 students who visited UCM's agriculture program. The campus community is acknowledging that recruitment is a part of every person's job.

Provost Bridgmon shared other recruiting efforts that include visits to high schools; participating in career and college fairs; and relationship-building with school counselors and principals.

In closing, Provost Bridgmon stated retention and student services is a national challenge. To address this at UCM, greater focus is needed and will be placed on advising, faculty engagement, and financial aid.

Other – Agenda No. 4

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 12:25 p.m.