

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
June 13, 2025

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on June 13, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the Elliott Student Union, Room 237B, on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Board President John Collier presided over the meeting. Others participating in the meeting were Governors Stephen Abney, Mary Dandurand, Stu Rogers, Gus Wetzel II, and Ken Weymuth; Student Governor Hadley Oden; University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer. Governor Phyllis Chase was unable to attend the meeting and was excused.

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 everyone to the meeting and congratulated the UCM Mules Baseball team on their second-place finish in the NCAA Division II World Series. He also thanked the staff at Skyhaven Airport for hosting the Board for a tour earlier in the day.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best congratulated the UCM Mules Baseball and Jennies Golf teams for finishing in second-place in their respective NCAA Division II national championships and expressed his appreciation to the UCM Athletics staff who provided support to both teams. He also thanked the Skyhaven Airport staff for hosting the tour for the Board.

Introductions and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 4

- **J.P. Mees Award Recipient** - Ms. Rae Clements, Staff Council President, introduced the 2025 J.P. Mees Award Recipient, Ms. Joyce Lawson, Senior Strategic Human Resources Partner and Benefits Specialist, and shared comments from her award nomination.
- **Outstanding Staff Award Recipient** – Ms. Clements introduced the 2025 Outstanding Staff Award Recipient, Ms. Brenda Dooley, Support Coordinator for the Communication Disorders Program in the Department of Human Services, and shared comments from her award nomination.

Board President Collier and President Best congratulated Ms. Lawson and Ms. Dooley, and a photograph was taken with each recipient.

Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 5

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

- Dr. Leigh Ann Blunt (August 23, 1999 – May 31, 2025), Professor
- Ms. Karen Breshears (August 23, 1999 – May 31, 2025), Chef/Instructor
- Dr. Hang Chen (August 17, 1992 – May 31, 2025), Professor
- Mr. Alan Cline (January 29, 2001 – May 31, 2025), Information Security Officer
- Mr. Michael O’Keefe (November 23, 1982 – May 31, 2025), KMOS Programming and Communications Manager
- Dr. David Aaberg (August 25, 1986 – June 30, 2025), Professor
- Ms. Susan Feedback (July 16, 2008 – June 30, 2025), RPDC School Resources Specialist
- Ms. Sandra Jenkins (February 21, 2000 – June 30, 2025), Instructor
- Mr. Kirk Pedersen (January 11, 1997 – June 30, 2025), Head Cross Country Coach/Distance Coach

Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Dr. Leigh Ann Blunt, Ms. Karen Breshears, Dr. Hang Chen, Mr. Alan Cline, Mr. Michael O’Keefe, Dr. David Aaberg, Ms. Susan Feedback, Ms. Sandra Jenkins, and Mr. Kirk Pedersen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.

Photographs were taken of Board President Collier and President Best individually presenting Dr. Aaberg, Ms. Breshears, Mr. Cline, Mr. O’Keefe, and Mr. Pedersen with a certificate of recognition. Certificates will be mailed to Dr. Blunt, Dr. Chen, Ms. Feedback, and Ms. Jenkins, as they were unable to attend.

Plenary Session

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 6

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

Action Items

- April 24, 2025, Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole and Plenary Session Minutes.
- Change of title for the Middle School–Junior High School Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) program to Middle School Education, contingent upon approval by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD), to be effective for the first available university catalog (Attachment 2).
- Addition of the BSE, Secondary Education - Marketing Teacher Education option, contingent upon approval by the MDHEWD, to be effective for the first available university catalog (Attachment 3).

- Addition of the BSE, Secondary Education - Journalism Teacher Education option, contingent upon approval by the MDHEWD, to be effective for the first available university catalog (Attachment 4).
- Change of name for the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Studies (SAS) to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (DSA), effective Fall 2025 (Attachment 5).
- Removal of the grain shed at the Mitchell Street Farm and award of contract to Cale Seymour in the amount of \$3,500 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to remove the grain shed (Attachment 6).
- Commitment of up to \$725,000 to purchase a new single engine Cessna 172 for the purpose of flight training, with the purchase agreement to be completed no later than August 4, 2025 (Attachment 7).
- Award of contract to Musco Sports Lighting, LLC in the amount of \$430,958 to provide all labor, materials, installation, and all other items necessary to install and complete the Walton Stadium lighting upgrade (Attachment 8).
- Award of contract for library subscription services to EBSCO Information Services for a three-year period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, at a three-year cost of \$660,670 (Attachment 9).
- Award of contract for library subscription services to ProQuest for a three-year period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, at a three-year cost of \$610,735 (Attachment 10).

Information Items

- Annual Bonds Compliance Checklist (Attachment 11).

Governor Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzel and carried unanimously.

Reports/Updates

Written Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 7

Mr. Collier noted that the written reports from the governance groups were included in the meeting packet under Tab 15 (Attachment 12).

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 8

President Best provided a legislative update, which included the following information -

- State Level - President Best stated that the General Assembly passed the budget by the constitutional deadline, and we are currently awaiting Governor Kehoe's signature, which is due by June 30, 2025, to know our official budget increase. President Best provided an update regarding Senate Bill 150, which would allow for the mandatory acceptance of 60 hours of transfer credit from community colleges to public four-year institutions for five

specific programs. This passed the legislature but has not yet been signed by Governor Kehoe. If he does sign, the Chief Academic Officers from across the state will begin working together to determine a common numbering and naming system for all courses. There is a three-year implementation timeline, and it will involve a significant amount of work. Governor Kehoe called a special session, during which the Senate and House passed the stadium subsidies and addressed other special projects. While none impacted UCM directly, President Best shared that there was some concern that the additional spending could result in line-item vetoes or withholds, as the total amount goes above what the Governor originally recommended in the budget. President Best shared that this will continue to be monitored closely.

- **Federal Level** - President Best explained that the budget bill, which passed the U.S. House, included reductions in the Pell Grant program, as well as other actions that were not favorable to higher education. The U.S. Senate has removed some of the deletions made by the U.S. House, and in essence, the Pell Grant program was restored in terms of funding. President Best provided an overview of the rescission package, which narrowly passed the U.S. House and could stop funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The CPB receives funding on a two-year cycle, and with rescission, funding would be withdrawn immediately. President Best stated that Josh Tomlinson, Director of Broadcasting Services and General Manager for KMOS-TV, is tracking this bill very closely and has provided communication on how we would react if funding is cut. UCM is advocating on the U.S. Senate side for funding for CPB to be maintained.

President Best shared that he and David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, had the opportunity to host Lieutenant Governor David Wasinger for a campus visit in May. They also visited with him, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, and Representatives Burt Whaley, Bill Allen, and Marty Murray at the Missouri State Capitol. Mr. Pearce had the opportunity to attend the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) on the Hill event in Washington, D.C., where he was able to meet with Senator Eric Schmitt and staff from the offices of Senator Josh Hawley and Congressman Mark Alford. Also, Senator Hawley's new field rep for the Kansas City area, Joseph Mackin, recently toured the Missouri Innovation Campus.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 9

President Best thanked the Board for their support of the new program options that were approved on the Plenary Session Consent agenda and reiterated that those matter when it comes to generating additional enrollment. He also shared that the university is exploring tools and techniques to enhance the efficiency of its internal operations. He provided an example of utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the Office of Admissions to reach more students and respond with communication tailored to their interests. President Best invited Provost Tim Crowley to share information about the agreement signed earlier in the day with A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri. Provost Crowley explained that this agreement creates a pathway for UCM pre-health students to have guaranteed interviews for medical school. He stated that this is the first of hopefully several agreements with medical or professional schools that will serve as a differentiator for UCM programs and students. President Best added that A.T.

Still is also working to support the Warrensburg healthcare industry by placing interns in local medical facilities.

Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement

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

Board Committee on Academic Affairs

Dr. Gus Wetzel provided a report on behalf of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, as Dr. Chase was unable to attend. Dr. Wetzel reported that two program options, one program name change, and one department name change were discussed and approved on the Plenary Session Consent Agenda. The Committee also had an in-depth discussion on enrollment for the fall semester.

Board Committee on Finance and Administration

Mr. Stu Rogers, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, extended his congratulations to the Jennies Golf team for their second-place finish in the NCAA Division II Championships and reported that the Committee had met earlier in the day. He invited Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, to present the following agenda items.

FY 2026 Operating Budget Update – Agenda Item No. 10

Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, presented the updated Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Operating Budget (Attachment 13). This was discussed in detail during the Finance and Administration Committee meeting where it was clarified that the total budget for FY 2026 is \$170.2 million (due to a mathematical error, the briefing paper originally distributed in the meeting materials incorrectly listed the total at \$171.2 million). *Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the updated FY 2026 Operating Budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.*

FY 2027 Capital Appropriations Request – Agenda Item No. 11

Mr. Hawley presented the proposed FY 2027 Capital Appropriations request (Attachment 14). *Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the deferred maintenance and capital funding project priorities for submittal of the FY 2027 Capital Appropriations Request to the MDHEWD. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weymuth and carried unanimously.*

FY 2027 Operating Appropriations Request – Agenda Item No. 12

Mr. Hawley presented the proposed FY 2027 Operating Appropriations Request (Attachment 15) in detail during the Finance and Administration Committee meeting. It was noted that MDHEWD

has not provided specific guidelines; however, UCM anticipates submitting a request that includes:

- **Existing Funding for Core Operations:**
 - Operating Appropriation Base (FY 2026 Base) \$68,661,540
- **New Funding for Core Operations:**
 - New Funding for Core Operations (3.4% Inflation) \$2,334,492
- **Debt Offset Tax Authority** \$225,000
- **New Funding Decision Item Requests** \$2,300,000
- Total University of Central Missouri Request** \$73,521,032

Mr. Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the FY 2027 Operating Appropriations Request of \$73,521,032 and authorization for the University Treasurer to modify this request if needed due to unforeseen changes in the MDHEWD guidelines. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.

Board Business

Report of the Nominating Committee – Agenda Item No. 13

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Dandurand recommended the following slate of Board officers for FY 2026:

President	John Collier
Vice President	Stephen Abney
Secretary	Mary Dandurand
Assistant Secretary	Kristen Plummer
Treasurer	Wilbert Hawley

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors accept the recommended slate of Board officers for FY 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 14

There was no other business.

Request for Closed Session – June 13, 2025 – Agenda Item No. 15

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. Weymuth 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>Stu Rogers</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Ken Weymuth</i>	<i>aye</i>

Adjourn – Agenda Item No. 16

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 3:00 p.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 4:53 p.m., and *Ms. Dandurand made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.* The Board adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

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Attachments Listing

<u>Attachment No.</u>	<u>Attachment Description</u>
1	Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions
2	Program Title Change – Middle School-Junior High School
3	New Program Option – Marketing Teacher Education
4	New Program Option – Journalism Teacher Education
5	Department Name Change – Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Studies
6	Mitchell Street Farm – Grain Shed Removal
7	Purchase of Aviation Program Aircraft
8	Walton Stadium Lighting Replacement
9	Library Subscription Services – EBSCO
10	Library Subscription Services – ProQuest
11	Annual Bonds Compliance Checklist
12	Written Governance Groups Reports
13	FY 2026 Operating Budget Update
14	FY 2027 Capital Appropriations Request
15	FY 2027 Operating Appropriations Request