

***University of Central Missouri  
Board of Governors  
Plenary Session  
December 11, 2025***

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on December 11, 2025, at 1:05 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.

**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 attendees to the meeting, noting that it is an exciting time on campus, as approximately 1,500 students will graduate during the weekend commencement ceremonies and become alumni. He expressed his thanks to all faculty and staff who have helped our students reach this level. Mr. Collier stated that he could not be prouder to be a fellow Mule.

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

President Best thanked everyone for their efforts to make the holidays special at UCM. He noted that this time of year really shows how great UCM is, with opportunities to come together and celebrate through events such as the First Lady's Holiday Concert, Jingle on the Quad, and the holiday market. He encouraged the campus community to spend time with friends and family over the next few weeks to relax and recharge, in preparation for the new year.

**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):

- Mr. Thomas Sturtevant (June 16, 2005 – July 31, 2025), System Coordinator
- Ms. Traci Butler (July 25, 2003 – December 31, 2025), Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Vanesa Chappell (September 9, 2002 – December 31, 2025), Library Assistant
- Dr. Miriam Fuller (August 17, 1997 – December 31, 2025), Professor
- Mr. Douglas Heath (December 1, 2008 – December 31, 2025), System Coordinator
- Dr. Julie Hentges (August 14, 2008 – December 31, 2025), Professor
- Dr. Qingxiong Ma (August 14, 2003 – December 31, 2025), Professor
- Mr. David McCormack (March 13, 2000 – December 31, 2025), Technology Support Center Manager

*Mr. Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Mr. Thomas Sturtevant, Ms. Traci Butler, Ms. Vanesa Chappell, Dr. Miriam Fuller, Mr. Douglas Heath, Dr. Julie Hentges, Dr. Qingxiong Ma, and Mr. David McCormack. Ms. Dandurand seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

President Best recognized Mr. Flip Piontek, who was in attendance on behalf of the Emeriti and Retiree Association. Photographs were taken of Board President Collier and President Best individually presenting certificates of recognition to Mr. Sturtevant, Ms. Butler, Dr. Fuller, Mr. Heath, Dr. Hentges, and Mr. McCormack. Certificates will be mailed to Ms. Chappell and Dr. Ma, as they were unable to attend.

**Recognition of Outgoing Student Governor and Request for Emeritus Status** - Agenda Item No. 5

President Best requested that governor emeritus status be granted to outgoing student governor, Ms. Oden, who has successfully completed her term and served the university faithfully and honorably (Attachment 2). *Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors grant governor emeritus status to outgoing student governor, Ms. Hadley Oden. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.*

Following the Board's action, Mr. Collier and President Best presented Ms. Oden with a certificate of appreciation and thanked her for her service on the Board and to the university.

**Plenary Session**

**Consent Agenda** – Agenda Item No. 6

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

**Action Items**

- October 23, 2025, Plenary Session minutes;
- A new Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Studies, to be offered beginning Fall 2026, pending approval by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD)/Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) and the Higher Learning Commission (Attachment 3);
- A new Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, effective Fall 2026, pending approval by the MDHEWD/CBHE and Higher Learning Commission (Attachment 4);
- A new Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics and Information Systems, effective Fall 2026, pending approval by the MDHEWD/CBHE and Higher Learning Commission (Attachment 5);
- A new Bachelor of Applied Science degree program, effective Fall 2026, pending approval by the MDHEWD/CBHE and Higher Learning Commission (Attachment 6);
- A new certificate in Global Airport Management, effective Fall 2026, pending approval by the MDHEWD/CBHE (Attachment 7);
- A name change from the Modern Languages Minor to the French/Spanish/German Studies Minor, effective Fall 2026 (Attachment 8);

- A name change from the World Languages and Cultures Minor to the Multilingual Studies Minor, effective Fall 2026 (Attachment 9);
- Award of contract to Centric Projects for \$4,070,475 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to complete the Mitchell Street Farm Barn and Greenhouse project located at 705 South Mitchell Street, Warrensburg, Missouri (Attachment 10);
- Award of contract to Index Restaurant Supply for \$467,702 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary for the completion of the Todd Dining Hall and Union Kitchen Equipment Supply and Installation project (Attachment 11);
- Purchase of networking gear through Logicalis for the Humphreys Building renovation in the amount of \$405,258.33, as submitted in the bid to provide all materials and provisions necessary to supply new fiber optic, wired, and wireless (Wi-Fi) networking gear in the Humphreys Building (Attachment 12);
- Award of a two (2)-year contract with CollegeVine to provide an agentic Artificial Intelligence agent functionality for student recruitment, transcript processing, financial aid, and student success for a total cost not to exceed \$600,000 for the two-year term (Attachment 13); and
- Commitment of up to \$725,000 to purchase a new single engine Cessna 172S for the purpose of flight training, with the purchase agreement to be completed no later than December 31, 2025 (Attachment 14).

*Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. Dr. Wetzel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

### **Reports/Updates**

#### **Verbal Governance Groups Reports** – Agenda Item No. 7

Faculty Senate - Dr. Stephen Price, Faculty Senate President, expressed appreciation on behalf of the Faculty Senate for the transparent leadership of President Best and Provost Crowley. He noted that while faculty morale is recovering, the rebound still lags following the low point of retrenchment. Dr. Price detailed the pressures faculty face in the changing higher education environment, such as being asked to teach courses across two different modalities while only getting credit for teaching one class; teach more classes online, as well as moving full degree programs online; drop a class due to low enrollment after preparation has already been completed to pick up an 8-week class session; assist with recruitment and retention by allowing late work, being lenient with attendance policies, and spend extra time outside of class to ensure students stay on track; and adapt and learn artificial intelligence tools. Despite these pressures, Dr. Price expressed optimism about the university's direction, noting that President Best and Provost Crowley are proactively leading discussions on reimagining course delivery at UCM, and also commended their support for the new faculty load policy that passed last year. Dr. Price reaffirmed his commitment to student success and expressed confidence that UCM is well-positioned.

Staff Council - Ms. Rae Clements, Staff Council President, stated that she was honored to serve her colleagues in her second year in this role and found it very meaningful to see how staff across campus maintain a deep commitment to improving UCM for everyone. She reported that one of the most significant points of the semester was the transition to UKG Ready. The Staff Council Legislative Committee drafted a letter of recommendation to President Best regarding concerns about communication, workflow, and campuswide impact. She expressed appreciation to President Best for the time and seriousness of his response, which provided clarification and addressed several of the concerns raised in the recommendation. Ms. Clements provided an overview of the Pastries with the President sessions held during the fall, noting that having that forum for discussion is greatly appreciated. She shared that a comprehensive summary of topics discussed during the events was compiled and sent to all staff members, so even those who could not attend could stay informed. Ms. Clements reported on the work of the internal Staff Council committees, highlighting the Campus Connection Showcase hosted by the Professional Development Committee, the warm welcomes provided to new employees on their first day by the Welcome Committee, and the annual staff appreciation holiday party hosted by the Employee Appreciation Committee. Looking ahead to the spring semester, Ms. Clements shared that upcoming guest speakers for Staff Council meetings include President Best, Mr. David Pearce, and Public Safety. Ms. Clements stated the Staff Council is committed to ensuring that staff voices are heard, respected, and represented, and thanked the Board for its continued support.

Student Government Association (SGA) - Ms. Calena Malicoat, SGA President, reported that during the fall semester, SGA welcomed 19 new congresspeople and filled all positions in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. SGA hosted a free coffee bar during finals week to encourage students. Throughout the semester, the SGA Executive Board sought opportunities to help future SGA members better understand their roles and to smooth the transition from semester to semester. They also worked with faculty advisors to implement leadership training for committee chairs and all SGA offices to better serve the student body. Ms. Malicoat provided an overview of the work the SGA committees had been doing during the fall semester, including the Internal Issues Committee amending policies to improve the effectiveness and procedural clarity of meetings; University Issues and Public Relations tabling outside the Union to increase student engagement; Public Relations creating two subcommittees, social media and events and engagement, to gather more feedback from students; University Issues and Sustainability working on a resolution to recommend adding bird dots to the Union, Crossing, Humphreys, and Student Recreation and Wellness Center; and the Inclusivity Committee working with the Association of Black Collegians (ABC) to plan Inclusivity Day. Ms. Malicoat reported that SGA Bill 202520 passed on the Homecoming Ballot, amending the SGA constitution to increase freshman seats from 5 to 10. The Selection Committee will work with the THRIVE program to fill two seats on SGA. Looking ahead to the spring semester, Ms. Malicoat reported that SGA will engage new students by providing transportation to class via golf carts on the first two days of class. They are also encouraging registered student organizations (RSOs) to send more representatives to Congress.

### Legislative Update - Agenda Item No. 8

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, provided a legislative update (Attachment 15), beginning with an acknowledgment of his intern, Mr. Tristan Satterlee, who prepared the PowerPoint presentation and will graduate this semester. Mr. Pearce reported that the Missouri legislative session will begin on January 6, 2026, and the pre-filing of legislation

began on December 1, 2025, which was a record day with 485 bills filed by the House and 599 bills filed by the Senate. Mr. Pearce provided an overview of the fiscal note process and thanked Ms. Ellen Ashbee, Administrative Assistant for Finance and Administration/University Analytics and Institutional Research, and Ms. Holly Weiss, Assistant General Counsel and Policy Director, for their work in reviewing and responding to fiscal note requests sent to UCM for bills that may impact higher education. Mr. Pearce reiterated that it is important for UCM to respond, as the legislature considers fiscal notes when the bills are debated.

Mr. Pearce provided an update that the Human Development and Family Sciences Department offered the Department of Social Services in Jefferson City an opportunity to provide a 20% scholarship tuition scholarship for employees pursuing a graduate degree in this program, which was very well received. The UCM team will meet with the Missouri Office of Administration in January to discuss providing a 20% scholarship tuition to all state employees pursuing a master's degree in Human Development and Family Sciences at UCM.

Mr. Pearce shared that the consensus revenue report (CRE) will be announced in mid-December, which the House, Senate, and Governor use to determine revenue for the upcoming year and base the budget on. Governor Kehoe will deliver the State of the State address on January 13, 2026, where the budget will be announced. The Governor's Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for January 14, 2026, and the last day to file bills is February 28, 2026. Mr. Pearce stated that the main issues in the upcoming legislative session will include the tight budget year, elimination of the state income tax, initiative petition reform, solar farm restrictions, education reform, and performance funding for higher education.

### **University Update** – Agenda Item No. 9

President Best provided an overview of communications sent to the Board since the last meeting, including the annual personnel report (Attachment 16). President Best noted that UCM faculty and staff awards and accolades are highlighted in the UCM Daily and in updates sent to the Board. He thanked the faculty and staff for the hard work that led to those recognitions and noted that amazing things are happening around campus, such as the two Grammy nominations received by Dr. Elisabeth Stimpert, associate professor of Music, for her ensemble Alarm Will Sound's recent album release. President Best acknowledged the recent passing of Sondra Savage Moore, who served as controller and budget director in her final couple of years at the university, and extended condolences to her family.

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

Ms. Mary Dandurand, Chair of the Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement, reported that the Committee met earlier in the morning and invited Ms. Courtney Goddard, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the UCM Alumni Foundation, and Dr. Jackie Jackson, Associate Vice President of University Advancement, to come forward to present the following agenda item.

## **UCM Comprehensive Campaign – Public Phase** - Agenda Item No. 10

Ms. Goddard provided a brief overview of the public launch of the Dreams Unite comprehensive campaign that was presented in detail during the Committee meeting (Attachment 17). *Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the UCM Alumni Foundation to move to the public phase of the Dreams Unite comprehensive campaign with a finalized campaign goal of \$60 million beginning May 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzel and carried unanimously.*

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

Dr. Gus Wetzel, Chair of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, stated that the committee met and discussed four new bachelor's degrees, a new certificate in global airport management, and two minor name changes that were approved on the consent agenda. A report on the current state of enrollment was also provided.

### **Board Committee on Finance and Administration**

Mr. Stu Rogers, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, invited Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, forward to present the following agenda items.

## **Proposed New Course Fees** – Agenda Item No. 11

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 20 of the meeting materials containing information for a proposal to add the following new course fees effective August 2026 (Attachment 18):

ART 4720	\$100
ART 4916	\$100
AVIA 1311	\$440
CD 5100	\$15
ENGT 3400	\$32
ENGT 4500	\$32
NUR 3306	\$131
NUR 3515	\$457
NUR 3612	\$163
NUR 3710	\$195
NUR 4010	\$131
NUR 4410	\$155
NUR 4610	\$139
NUR 4710	\$105
NUR 5300	\$131

*Mr. Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the course fees listed above, effective August 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.*

## **Proposed Course Fee Revisions** – Agenda Item No. 12

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 21 of the meeting materials containing information for a proposal to revise the following course fees effective August 2026 (Attachment 19):

AGRI 1420	Introduction to Animal Science \$15	(Currently \$30)
ART 2511	Painting I \$100	(Currently \$65)
ART 2710	Introduction to Printmaking \$100	(Currently \$80)
ART 3511	Painting II \$100	(Currently \$85)
ART 4511	Painting III \$100	(Currently \$85)
ART 4522	Advanced Topics in Painting \$100	(Currently \$85)
AVIA 3370	Transport Aircraft Systems \$767	(Currently \$467)
AVIA 3372	Flight Management Systems \$767	(Currently \$467)
AVIA 5300	Airport Finance \$545	(Currently \$510)
AVIA 5510	Aviation Safety Program Management \$545	(Currently \$510)
BIOL 4515	Molecular Technology \$75	(Currently \$50)
BIOL 5515	Molecular Technology \$75	(Currently \$50)
CADD 4175	Design Analysis and 3D Printing \$45	(Currently \$10)
CADD 5175	Design Automation and 3D Printing \$45	(Currently \$10)
CD 4802	Undergraduate Clinical Practicum I \$75	(Currently \$85)
CD 4803	Undergraduate Clinical Practicum II \$15	(Currently \$45)
CD 5810	Graduate Clinical Practicum \$75	(Currently \$240)
ENGT 2040	Engineering Material Science \$76	(Currently \$30)
ENGT 2060	Microprocessors: Theory and Application \$40	(Currently \$25)
ENGT 3530	Inspection and Quality Control \$31	(Currently \$15)
ENGT 3562	Computer Numerical Control \$37	(Currently \$15)
ENGT 4032	Hydraulics and Pneumatics \$22	(Currently \$15)
ENGT 4221	Manufacturing Problem Solving \$121	(Currently \$30)
FAME 4424	Pattern Design \$60	(Currently \$20)
FLYA 1320	Private Flight A \$7,219.50	(Currently \$6,712)
FLYA 1321	Private Flight B \$9,341.50	(Currently \$8,554)
FLYA 2313	Instrument Flight A \$3,168.50	(Currently \$2,967)
FLYA 2314	Instrument Flight B \$7,883.50	(Currently \$7,266)
FLYA 3310	Commercial Flight A \$5,207.50	(Currently \$4,510)
FLYA 3311	Commercial Flight B \$4,932.50	(Currently \$4,510)
FLYA 3312	Commercial Flight C \$5,819.50	(Currently \$5,071)
FLYA 3315	Commercial Flight D \$5,517.50	(Currently \$5,129)
FLYA 3316	Commercial Flight E \$5,240.50	(Currently \$4,852)
FLYA 3317	Commercial Flight F \$5,120	(Currently \$4,721)
FLYA 3330	Multi-Engine Certificate \$11,287	(Currently \$10,845)
FLYA 3360	Flight Instructor Lab – Airplane \$6,390	(Currently \$5,940)
FLYA 3362	Flight Instructor – Instrument \$3,530	(Currently \$3,250)
FLYA 3364	Flight Instructor – Multi-Engine \$5,810	(Currently \$5,700)

*Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the recommended revisions to the course fees listed above, effective August 2026. Ms. Dandurand seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

### **Proposed Course Fee Deletions** – Agenda Item No. 13

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 22 of the meeting materials containing information for a proposal to delete the following course fees effective August 2026 (Attachment 20):

AVIA 4610	\$115
FLYA 1320	\$83
FLYA 1321	\$193
FLYA 2313	\$83
FLYA 2314	\$193
FLYA 3310	\$83
FLYA 3311	\$83
FLYA 3312	\$110
FLYA 3315	\$83
FLYA 3316	\$83
FLYA 3317	\$110
FLYA 3330	\$110
FLYA 3360	\$110
FLYA 3362	\$110
FLYA 3364	\$110
FLYA 3415	\$7,207
FLYA 3416	\$7,077
FLYA 3417	\$8,593
FLYA 3430	\$2,205

*Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve deleting the course fees listed above, effective August 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.*

### **External Audit Report** – Agenda Item No. 14

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 23 of the meeting materials, which contained the external audit report (Attachment 21). The report was presented in detail during the Work Session held earlier in the day. *Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors accept the external audit report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.*

Mr. Rogers complimented Mr. Hawley and the UCM Finance and Administration team for their work on the external audit.

### **Board Business**

### **Other Business** – Agenda Item No. 15

There was no other business.

**Request for Closed Session – December 11, 2025** – Agenda Item No. 16

*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 Dr. Wetzel and carried with the following roll call vote:*

<i>Stephen Abney</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Mary Dandurand</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Stu Rogers</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Gus Wetzel</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Ken Weymuth</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>John Collier</i>	<i>aye</i>

**Adjournment** – Agenda Item No. 17

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 1:46 p.m. The Board recessed to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Dr. John W. “Jack” Horine Virtual Reality Flight Simulation Lab in the T.R. Gaines Building, Room 208, on the UCM campus in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 4:26 p.m., and *Ms. Dandurand made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

**University of Central Missouri  
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Attachments Listing**

<b><u>Attachment No.</u></b>	<b><u>Attachment Description</u></b>
1	Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions
2	Recognition of Outgoing Student Governor and Request for Emeritus Status
3	New Bachelor of Business Administration - Business Studies
4	New Bachelor of Science - Accountancy
5	New Bachelor of Science - Business Analytics and Information Systems
6	New Bachelor of Applied Science Degree
7	New Certificate - Global Airport Management
8	Minor Name Change and Revision - Modern Languages
9	Minor Name Change and Revision - World Languages and Cultures
10	Mitchell Street Farm Barn and Greenhouse Construction
11	Todd Dining Hall and Union Kitchen Equipment Supply and Installation
12	Humphreys Building Renovation - Networking Gear Equipment Supply
13	Agentic AI Student Recruitment Software Contract
14	Purchase of Aviation Program Aircraft
15	Legislative Update
16	Annual Personnel Report
17	UCM Comprehensive Campaign - Public Phase
18	Proposed New Course Fees
19	Proposed Course Fee Revisions
20	Proposed Course Fee Deletions
21	External Audit Report