University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
June 18, 2026

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on June 18, 2026, at 1:45 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; University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer.

Note: During the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held earlier in the day, the Committee voted to amend the agenda and removed the following two items: (1) Authorizing Resolution - MOHEFA Debt Financing and (2) Construction Manager at Risk - UCM Welcome Center and UTT/Grinstead Facelift. Therefore, these agenda items were not moved forward to the Plenary Session agenda for action by the full Board and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Call to Order - Agenda Item No. 1

Board President Collier called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present to conduct business.

Remarks by the Board President – Agenda Item No. 2

Board President Collier delivered opening remarks highlighting several recent student, faculty, staff, and athletic achievements from the spring semester. He noted the upcoming summer orientations and UCM's recent national rankings for academic quality and affordability, including Programs.com, which ranked UCM as the #12 most affordable online master's cybersecurity program for 2026. Board President Collier concluded by encouraging attendees to reflect on past milestones and celebrate the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary during the 4th of July holiday.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best shared that earlier in the week he was interviewed on three radio stations and one podcast, where he had the opportunity to share about the ongoing hard work across campus that continues throughout the summer to prepare for future students. He concluded by thanking the Board for their involvement and support in considering the day's agenda items to advance the university's future goals.

Introductions and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 4

- **J.P. Mees Award Recipient** – Ms. Rae Clements, Staff Council President, introduced the 2026 J.P. Mees Award Recipient, Ms. Carol Knight, Director of Digital Learning and Instructional Innovation, and shared comments from her award nomination. Board President Collier and President Best presented Ms. Knight with a plaque and had a photograph taken with her.

- **Outstanding Staff Award Recipient** – Ms. Clements introduced the 2026 Outstanding Staff Award Recipient, Ms. Heather Stringer, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and shared highlights from her award nomination. A photograph was taken of Board President Collier and President Best presenting Ms. Stringer with a plaque.

Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 5

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):

- Dr. Brian Brost (August 21, 2000 – May 31, 2026), Professor
- Ms. Pamela Hoyer (August 16, 2007 – May 31, 2026), Senior Instructor
- Dr. Sandra Hutchinson (January 11, 2001 – May 31, 2026), Professor
- Ms. Janet (Susie) Pine (September 7, 1977 – May 31, 2026), Office Professional IV
- Mr. Timothy Pinkston (October 1, 2001 – June 30, 2026), Assistant Athletic Director for Trademarks, Licensing, and Design

Governor Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Dr. Brian Brost, Ms. Pamela Hoyer, Dr. Sandra Hutchinson, Ms. Janet (Susie) Pine, and Mr. Timothy Pinkston. Governor Wetzel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

President Best introduced Ms. Sharon Jennings, the newly elected Vice President for the Emeriti Retirement Association (ERA), who was in attendance. Photographs were taken of Board President Collier and President Best individually presenting certificates to Ms. Hoyer, Dr. Hutchinson, Ms. Pine, and Mr. Pinkston. A certificate will be mailed to Dr. Brost, who was unable to attend the meeting.

PLENARY SESSION

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 6

Board President Collier asked for a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Action Items

- Minutes of the April 24, 2026, Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole, Work Session, and Plenary Session and the May 27, 2026, Special Plenary Session;

- A new Social Work Minor, effective Spring 2027, pending approval by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development/Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission (Attachment 2);

- Purchase of property insurance for Fiscal Year 2027 at an annual cost of $1,231,360 (Attachment 3);

- Award of contract to Crossroad Tours to provide Athletics Bus Transport Services on an as-needed basis and to provide shuttle services between Warrensburg and Lee's

Summit during the summer, fall, and spring semesters for an initial two (2)-year period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, with up to two (2) renewal periods consisting of two (2) years each at an estimated approximate total cost of the two (2)-year contract for both services to be $1,428,961 (Attachment 4);

- Purchase of Cisco Webex Calling Unified Communications as a Service (UCaaS) and Cisco Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) services through Logicalis, including five (5)-year agreements for the services and Logicalis professional services to assist with the implementation and migration to the new enterprise phone system, with the total five (5)-year cost for this initiative of $981,411.48 (Attachment 5);

- Award of a five (5)-year contract in the amount of $1,135,040.92 with Logicalis, Inc. for the purchase, licensing, support, maintenance, and professional implementation services of a replacement next-generation Cisco High-End Firewall Hardware Solution (Attachment 6);

- An agreement with Logicalis, Inc. under the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance Contract #01-170 for the procurement, professional implementation, and five (5)-year support of the Virtualization Software and Hardware Infrastructure for a total amount of $1,366,887.22 (Attachment 7);

- An addendum to amend the current contract with Niche to include an additional graduate-level lead-generation service at a cost of $57,000, in addition to the current contract price (Attachment 8);

- Permanent relocation of the campus astronomical observatory from Pertle Springs into a new building (roll-off roof observatory) at Prussing Farm for a cost of $38,000, inclusive of an approximate 10% contingency (Attachment 9);

- Award of contract to Olsson to provide On-Call Architectural and Engineer Professional Services to provide services including completing a Master Plan Update with updated Environmental Study and Airport Layout Plan for Skyhaven Airport (Attachment 10);

- Award of contract to McCownGordon Construction to provide construction manager at risk services for the rebuild of the Yeater Residence Hall in the amount of $50,000 for Preconstruction Services, $2,381,480 for General Conditions on the entire project, and a 2.45% fee on the total cost of work based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price to be determined at a later date, to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to complete the project (Attachment 11).

Governor Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. Governor Rogers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Board President Collier noted the following information item listed on the Consent Agenda:

Information Item

- 2025-2026 President's Delegated Authority Program Actions (Attachment 12).

REPORTS/UPDATES

Written Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 7

Board President Collier noted that the written reports from the governance groups were included in the meeting packet under Tab 18 (Attachment 13).

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 8

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, presented the legislative update (Attachment 14), noting the Missouri legislative session ended on May 15, 2026, with the budget finalized the week before on May 8, 2026. Mr. Pearce reported that the Senate rejected the House's proposal to reallocate funding for higher education institutions solely based on full-time enrollment, which would have reduced UCM's funding by $8.1 million. The issue went to Conference Committee, where funding was restored, and the budget for level funding was sent to Governor Kehoe for approval by June 30, 2026. He stated that language was inserted into the budget to develop an objective funding formula for two- and four-year institutions, assuming no additional funds. The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) will consult with institutions and submit a non-binding report by December 1, 2026. In response to Governor Weymuth's questions, President Best stated he expected MDHEWD to recommend a simplified, transparent funding formula.

Mr. Pearce provided an update on legislative policy bills and UCM's involvement in the fiscal note process during the legislative session. Out of over 3,000 bills filed, only two dealing with higher education passed, including HB 2896, which increases the maximum number of Board members allowed from Johnson County to three, and HB 2061 concerning antisemitism. UCM responded to 485 fiscal note requests to assess the financial impact of proposed legislation. Mr. Pearce distributed an example of a fiscal note for the Board members to see. He recognized and thanked Ms. Ellen Ashbee, Administrative Assistant for Finance and Administration, along with the Office of General Counsel and other participating campus departments, for their efforts in the university's fiscal note review and response process.

Mr. Pearce provided an update on federal activity, noting that the U.S. House Appropriations Committee took a step to strengthen TRIO programs during its markup of the education appropriations bill, which included a $6 million increase. At UCM, the McNair Scholars Program is operated under TRIO. Additionally, he reported that the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee passed the Protect College Sports Act (SR 4668) to establish national rules for Name-Image-Likeness (NIL) protections, transfer and eligibility rules, prohibited compensation, and the preemption of conflicting state rules.

Mr. Pearce concluded his report by highlighting recent campus events and visits, including the rededication of the Humphreys Building featuring former Governor Mike Parson, a visit from Knob Noster Mayor Perry Byerly to the Military and Veterans Success Center, and the taping of *This Week in Missouri Politics* at the KMOS studios. He also detailed UCM's attendance at meetings of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact and Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission and outlined upcoming summer visits from congressional representatives and the Missouri Department of Corrections Director Trevor Foley.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 9

President Best stated that since the last scheduled meeting in April, ten information items were distributed to the Board, including the media snapshot report provided by Integrated Marketing and Communications. He noted this report allows the university to track media coverage trends, assess sentiment, and evaluate the effectiveness of marketing and communication efforts. President Best recognized the Career and Technical Education faculty and Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Doug Fiore, for establishing a partnership alongside North Central Missouri College with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters to serve as trainers of their trainers. This initiative creates a new certification option for their trainers and opens up pathways for degree programs through North Central Missouri College, and ultimately UCM for baccalaureate degrees. In closing, President Best highlighted the MuleNation events held as part of the “Dreams Unite” campaign tour and thanked the Board for their advocacy and support of the university.

BOARD COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Governor Dandurand, Chair of the Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement, stated that the committee did not meet.

BOARD COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Governor Wetzel, Chair of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, provided a report from the committee meeting held earlier in the day that included the new minor in social work and enrollment report.

BOARD COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Governor Rogers, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, stated that the committee met earlier in the day and covered a wide variety of agenda items. He invited Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, to present the following agenda items.

Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget Update – Agenda Item No. 10

Mr. Hawley presented the updated Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Operating Budget (Attachment 15). **Governor Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the updated FY 2027 Operating Budget. The motion was seconded by Governor Wetzel and carried unanimously.**

2027 Health Insurance Contract – Agenda Item No. 11

Mr. Hawley presented the proposed UCM medical insurance plan with Blue Cross of Kansas City for the January 1 through December 31, 2027, plan year with four (4) one (1)-year renewal options, with the proposed premium cost share options as shown in Appendix A (Attachment 16). President Best expressed appreciation to Mr. Hawley and Dr. Cory Wicker, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, for their work in negotiating this contract. **Governor Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the award of a contract for the UCM medical plan for the 2027 benefit year to Blue Cross of Kansas City for January 1 through December 31, 2027, at the rates and cost share as shown in Appendix A, with four (4) one (1)-year renewal options. The motion was seconded by Governor Dandurand and carried unanimously.**

Appendix A. EMPLOYEE AND UCM INSURANCE PREMIUM COST SHARE (12 month)
UCM Custom Network Plan

Coverage Type	Total Premium	UCM Portion	Employee Portion
Tier 1			
Employee Only	$1,027.69	$984.61	$43.08
Emp +Spouse	$1,962.40	$1,393.70	$568.70
Emp + Child(ren)	$1,692.37	$1,349.89	$342.48
Family	$2,523.61	$1,485.11	$1,038.50
Tier 2			
Employee Only	$1,027.69	$941.57	$86.12
Emp +Spouse	$1,962.40	$1,350.66	$611.74
Emp + Child(ren)	$1,692.37	$1,306.69	$385.68
Family	$2,523.61	$1,441.83	$1,081.78
Tier 3			
Employee Only	$1,027.69	$898.51	$129.48
Emp +Spouse	$1,962.40	$1,307.56	$654.84
Emp + Child(ren)	$1,692.37	$1,263.55	$428.82
Family	$2,523.61	$1,398.77	$1,124.84

Rates above are per month based on a 12-month payroll cycle.

Rates assume premium reduction for A Healthier You participants. Non-participants will be charged an additional $40.00 per month in premium costs.

Fiscal Year 2028 Capital Appropriations Request – Agenda Item No. 12

Mr. Hawley presented the proposed FY 2028 Capital Appropriations request (Attachment 17). **Governor Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the deferred maintenance and capital funding project priorities for submittal of the FY 2028 Capital**

Appropriations Request to the MDHEWD. The motion was seconded by Governor Rogers and carried unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2028 Operating Appropriations Request – Agenda Item No. 13

Mr. Hawley presented the proposed FY 2028 State Operating Appropriations Request (Attachment 18). It was noted that MDHEWD has not provided specific guidelines; however, UCM anticipates submitting a request that includes:

• **Existing funding for Core Operations:**	
o Operating Appropriation Base (FY 2026 base)	$67,661,616
• **New Funding for Core Operations:**	
o New Funding for Core Operations (3.6% Inflation)	$2,435,818
• **Debt Offset Tax Authority**	$225,000
• **New Funding Decision Item Requests**	$2,300,000
Total University of Central Missouri Request	**$72,622,434**

Governor Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve the FY 2028 State Operating Appropriations Request of $72,622,434 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 Governor Weymuth and carried unanimously.

Authorizing Resolution – MOHEFA Debt Financing – Agenda Item No. 14

This item was removed from the agenda and was not discussed.

BOARD BUSINESS

UCM Strategic Plan – Agenda Item No. 15

Dr. Ann McCoy, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Chair of the Strategic Plan Council, presented the framework of the UCM Strategic Plan (Attachment 19).

Governor Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors endorse the proposed framework for the 2026-2031 UCM Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Governor Abney and carried unanimously.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Agenda Item No. 16

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Governor Wetzel recommended the following slate of Board officers for FY 2027:

President:	Steve Abney
Vice President:	Stu Rogers

Secretary:	Mary Dandurand
Assistant Secretary:	Kristen Plummer

Governor Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors accept the recommended slate of Board officers for FY 2027. The motion was seconded by Governor Wetzel and carried unanimously.

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 17

There was no other business.

Request for Closed Session – June 18, 2026 – Agenda Item No. 18

Governor 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 Governor Rogers and carried with the following roll call vote:

Stephen Abney	**aye**
Mary Dandurand	**aye**
Stu Rogers	**aye**
Gus Wetzel	**aye**
Ken Weymuth	**aye**
John Collier	**aye**

Adjournment – Agenda Item No. 18

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 2:30 p.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 4:36 p.m.

Governor Abney moved that the Board of Governors additionally appoint Wilbert Hawley as the University Treasurer on the FY 2027 slate of Board officers. The motion was seconded by Governor Weymuth and carried unanimously.

Governor Wetzel made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Governor Rogers and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

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Attachments Listing

Attachment No.	Attachment Description
1	Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions
2	New Minor – Social Work
3	Fiscal Year 2027 Property Insurance
4	Bus Transportation Services Contract
5	Cisco Webex Calling Unified Communications as a Service Purchase
6	Replacement Firewall Hardware and Services Purchase
7	Replacement Virtualized Software and Hardware Infrastructure Purchase
8	Niche Contract Amendment
9	UCM Astronomical Observatory Building Construction
10	Skyhaven Airport On-Call Architectural and Engineer Professional Services
11	Construction Manager at Risk – Yeater Residence Hall
12	2025-2026 President’s Delegated Authority Program Actions
13	Written Governance Groups Reports
14	Legislative Update
15	Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget Update
16	2027 Health Insurance Contract
17	Fiscal Year 2028 Capital Appropriations Request
18	Fiscal Year 2028 Operating Appropriations Request
19	UCM Strategic Plan