

**University of Central Missouri**  
**Board of Governors**  
**Plenary Session**  
**June 13, 2024**

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on June 13, 2024, at 11:33 a.m. in Union 237B on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board Vice President Stephen Abney. Others participating in the meeting from Union 237B were Governors Phyllis Chase, Mary Dandurand, Stu Rogers, Gus Wetzel II, and Hadley Oden, as well as University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer. Governor John Collier participated in the meeting via Zoom. Governor Kenneth Weymuth was unable to attend the meeting and was excused.

**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 Vice President** – Agenda Item No. 2

Mr. Abney welcomed everyone attending the meeting in person and online and expressed appreciation for their support and participation.

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

President Best shared that a formal response was received from the Higher Learning Commission Institutional Actions Council announcing UCM's accreditation was reaffirmed through 2033-2034 with no modifications to the visiting team report. President Best stated the visiting team had amazing things to say about the university, faculty, staff, and students and expressed his thanks to the campus community for all the hard work that set the university up for a successful visit, which was a 10-year effort.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Abney congratulated all those involved in the Higher Learning Accreditation on its successful outcome.

**Introductions and Recognitions** – Agenda Item No. 4

- *J.P. Mees Award Recipient* - Mr. Ed Wirthwein, outgoing Staff Council President, provided background information on the J.P. Mees Award, which was named in honor of John Paul "J.P." Mees, a longtime and well-respected staff member at UCM, who passed away suddenly in 2000. The award is given annually to a staff member classified as exempt and who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to UCM, the community, professional activities, and service to students. Mr. Alan Nordyke was introduced as the 2024 J.P. Mees Award recipient.
- *Outstanding Staff Award Recipient* – Mr. Wirthwein provided background information for the Outstanding Staff Award, which is given annually to a non-exempt employee who has worked full-time at the university for at least one year and has demonstrated superior

service to students, staff, faculty, and the community. They must also model professionalism and a commitment to go beyond their normal duties and promote teamwork and collaboration. Ms. Joni Porter was introduced as the 2024 Outstanding Staff Award recipient.

Board Vice President Abney and President Best congratulated Mr. Nordyke and Ms. Porter, 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):

- Ms. Paula Brant (August 14, 2003 – May 31, 2024), Program Manager
- Ms. Patricia Cary (June 1, 2007 – May 31, 2024), Library Assistant V
- Dr. Robert Fernquist (August 18, 1997 – May 31, 2024), Faculty Department Chair
- Mr. Gregory Nelson (September 13, 1999 – May 31, 2024), Grounds Manager
- Mr. Robert Jackson (January 9, 1999 – June 30, 2024), Athletic Promotions Coordinator

*Mr. Collier moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Paula Brant, Patricia Cary, Robert Fernquist, Gregory Nelson, and Robert Jackson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.* Photographs were taken of Board Vice President Abney and President Best presenting Ms. Brant and Mr. Jackson with a Certificate of Recognition. Certificates will be mailed to Ms. Cary, Dr. Fernquist, and Mr. Nelson, as they could not attend.

### **Plenary Session**

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

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

#### **Action**

- April 25, 2024, Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole Meeting and Plenary Session minutes.

#### **Information Items**

- FY 2025 Operating Budget Update (Attachment 2); and
- Annual Compliance Checklist (Attachment 3).

*Ms. 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. Abney noted the written governance groups reports were included in the meeting packet under Tab 8 (Attachment 4).

## **Enrollment Update for Fall 2024** – Agenda Item No. 8

Dr. Phil Bridgmon, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided an enrollment update for Fall 2024, noting enrollment is very positive. Ten weeks out from the start of the semester, enrollment is up about 14% for year-over-year total headcount and almost 7% for year-over-year credit hours. Dr. Bridgmon stated that he expects there will also be positive year-over-year gains for freshmen and transfer students as well as graduate students, both international and domestic.

Dr. Bridgmon acknowledged that enrollment is a constant battle for all universities. He stated that the updated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been a real challenge, and he anticipated there will be a long-term impact resulting in fewer students going to college and continued downward pressure on interest in going to college.

While UCM's numbers are still extraordinarily high, Dr. Bridgmon reported declines in international applications and admits were being monitored, and a smaller new international student class year-over-year will be expected, even though graduate enrollment is up. He shared that this poses an opportunity to continue diversifying international enrollment sources at the graduate and undergraduate levels. President Best added that India is the biggest sending country overall for the university's international students, and the softening seen is universal across the United States. President Best shared that he and staff from the international student services area recently attended the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA) conference where they had a chance to explore what is happening with the university's recruitment partners. The partners shared that what is being seen is nothing to panic over and noted that the volume is much closer to the numbers for Fall 2022 instead of Fall 2023, which was an abnormality.

Governor Abney asked what percentage of the expected enrollment increase for UCM in the fall was from undergraduate students and what Provost Bridgmon thought the FAFSA challenge would do nationally to enrollment. Provost Bridgmon did not have the numbers with him but responded that the enrollment increase for UCM will mainly be at the graduate level. He also shared the current speculation was that the FAFSA challenge would result in approximately 500,000 fewer college students nationally in the fall. UCM is currently down overall by 5.5% on FAFSA applications. Provost Bridgmon noted that 275 students registered for Orientation had not filled out the FAFSA; however, he shared that many applications arrived this week.

Mr. Abney thanked Dr. Bridgmon for his good work as Provost, noting he has made a difference for UCM, and wished him the best at his next university.

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

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, provided a legislative update (Attachment 5) that included the following highlights:

- State Update – The Missouri legislative session ended on May 17, 2024, and the budget was approved on May 10, 2024, with overall good news for higher education. The legislature recommended a 3% core increase in funding for public four-year institutions, full funding for the last quarter of the transformational projects (for UCM, Humphreys Building - \$9.95

million), and full funding for MOExcels. The Governor has until June 30, 2024, to sign the budget, and while there are expected to be some line-item vetoes, Mr. Pearce anticipates the three items mentioned related to higher education will hold as they were in the Governor's original budget proposal. The Missouri Returning Heroes Act was also included in the state budget, with UCM's portion at a little over \$80,000.

- State Policy – There were 28 non-budget bills passed in the legislature this year, which the Governor has until July 14, 2024, to sign. Mr. Pearce stated this was a low amount compared to previous years because it was an election year and there were multiple lengthy filibusters in the Senate. Mr. Pearce highlighted Senate Bill 912, the Omnibus Military Veterans Bill that includes language to give state tuition assistance to the Missouri National Guard, and Senate Bill 754, the Omnibus Crime Bill. This bill will create a Cyber Security Task Force comprised of 16 members, with one member being a higher education faculty member. UCM has expressed interest to the Governor's office to have a faculty member on the task force should it pass. Mr. Pearce reported that Laurel Hogue, Stan Elliott, and Clarinda Dir had a successful presentation to the House Workforce Development and Infrastructure Committee on May 8, 2024, where they shared information about workforce development efforts at the UCM Lee's Summit campus.
- Federal Update – Due to funding from continuing resolutions, Mr. Pearce reported there is no thought of an imminent government shutdown. He highlighted the Protecting Student Athletes Economic Freedom Act, which is sponsored by Representative Bob Good from Virginia and would prohibit student-athletes from becoming university employees. UCM has encouraged Congressman Mark Alford's office to consider being a bill co-sponsor or sponsor this bill as it comes through the legislative process. Mr. Pearce noted that Congressman Alford recently hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Art Show and Military Academy Reception on campus on April 27, 2024, and shared photographs from the events.
- Upcoming Events – On June 25, 2024, there will be a Special Interim Committee on Higher Education Performance Funding meeting chaired by Representative Brenda Shields. The committee will discuss performance funding for higher education and develop a formula. Mr. Pearce provided an overview of the expected timeline, which would be to submit a formula suggestion to the legislature by the end of the year, start tracking funding in 2025 to see how it would affect universities if it was in effect, vote on the process in 2026, and go into effect in 2027-2028. Mr. Pearce and Dr. Tim Crowley, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, will plan to attend the meeting.

### **University Update** – Agenda Item No. 10

President Best reported that critical state- and association-wide meetings take place during the summer, which he participates in on behalf of the university. The Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) CEO Council met in Kansas City on Sunday and Monday. He noted many changes are happening in the NCAA that the university continues to stay on top of to ensure UCM is well-positioned for success in intercollegiate athletics. President Best also shared Jerry Hughes was inducted into the Hall of Fame for both the MIAA and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). The university hosted the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) meetings at the Missouri Innovation Campus (MIC) this week, as well as the Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE) meeting. President Best was invited to give a presentation during the CBHE meeting, where he highlighted the MIC building and concept. Overall,

he stated it was a good opportunity to show the CBHE UCM's hospitality and what we do that makes a difference for our students.

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

Ms. Dandurand, Chair of the Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement, summarized the 2023-2024 UCM Community Service Efforts Report that was shared with the Board by Dr. Shari Bax (Attachment 6), noting that at least 3,700 students were involved in community service, 8,500 hours of community service were performed, and \$42,682 worth of goods and services and cash donations were provided by students and faculty.

**Board Committee on Academic Affairs**

Dr. Wetzel, Chair of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, said the Committee did not meet.

**Board Committee on Finance and Administration**

Mr. Collier, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, reported that the Committee had met earlier and discussed two items that were on the Consent Agenda. He asked Mr. Hawley to present the following agenda items.

**FY 2026 Capital Appropriations Request** – Agenda Item No. 11

Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, presented the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Capital Appropriations request (Attachment 7), which was discussed in detail during the Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

*Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve the deferred maintenance and capital funding project priorities for submittal of the FY 2026 Capital Appropriations Request to MDHEWD. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.*

**FY 2026 Operating Appropriations Request** – Agenda Item No. 12

Mr. Hawley presented and discussed the proposed FY 2026 Operating Appropriations Request (Attachment 8) 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 2025 base) \$66,661,690
- **New Funding for Core Operations:**
  - New Funding for Core Operations (3.4% Inflation) \$2,266,497
- **Debt Offset Tax Authority** \$225,000

- **New Funding Decision Item Requests** \$980,000
- **Total University of Central Missouri Request** \$70,133,187

*Dr. Wetzel moved that the Board of Governors approve the FY 2026 Operating Appropriations Request of \$70,133,187 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 Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.*

**Skyhaven Airport Master Plan** – Agenda Item No. 13

President Best reported the Board had an opportunity to hear from and ask questions to representatives from the engineering services consultant, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT), for the Skyhaven Airport Master Plan (Attachment 9) during Work Session. President Best recommended the Board refer the master plan to the committee process, particularly the Finance and Administration Committee, for future consideration, which will give the Board the opportunity to review the responses to the questions that were asked during Work Session and any updates to the master plan that CMT may make as a result of the answers they receive along with further consultation for what the university’s prioritization might be.

*Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors refer the Skyhaven Airport Master Plan to the Board Committee on Finance and Administration for future consideration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Chase and carried unanimously.*

**Board Business**

**Proposed Naming** – Agenda Item No. 14

President Best presented the following naming opportunities in accordance with BOG Policy 1.2.090 Naming Buildings, Rooms, and Special Use Facilities (Attachment 10) for which a number of individuals have donated funds toward the renovation of the Terry Noland Football Office Complex through the Alumni Foundation. The funds cover over half of the renovation cost, the size of the spaces requested to be named align with the guidelines previously provided to the Board for each level of gift, and the location of the space proposed to be named is identified by a yellow dot on the diagram included on each background information paper.

**Muleball Brothers for Life Lounge** - President Best recommended to the Board that the player lounge located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex be named the “*Muleball Brothers for Life Lounge*” in honor of Mr. Paul Kaiser and the Mules Football alumni organization, Muleball Brothers for Life, which he is a found member of.

*Mr. Collier moved that the Board of Governors approve naming the player lounge located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “Muleball Brothers for Life Lounge.” The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.*

**Glaunert Family Defensive Coordinator/Linebacker Office** – President Best recommended to the Board to name one 142-square-foot office space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “*Glaunert Family Defensive Coordinator/Linebacker Office*” in honor of Mr. Paul Glaunert.

*Ms. Dandurand moved the Board of Governors approve the naming of one 142-square-foot office space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “Glaunert Family Defensive Coordinator/Linebacker Office.” The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzel and carried unanimously.*

**Scott and Christine Taylor Office** – President Best recommended to the Board to name one 142-square-foot office space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “*Scott and Christine Taylor Office*” in honor of Mr. Scott and Mrs. Christine Taylor.

*Dr. Chase moved the Board of Governors approve the naming of one 142-square-foot office space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “Scott and Christine Taylor Office.” The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.*

**Hulet Family Defensive Backs Office** – President Best recommended to the Board to name one 142-square-foot office space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “*Hulet Family Defensive Backs Office*” in honor of Mr. Mark Hulet.

*Ms. Dandurand moved the Board of Governors approve the naming of one 142-square-foot office space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “Hulet Family Defensive Backs Office.” The motion was seconded by Dr. Chase and carried unanimously.*

**Rick Moyer Family Offense and Running Backs Meeting Room** – President Best recommended to the Board to name one position meeting room space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “*Rick Moyer Family Offense and Running Backs Meeting Room*” in honor of Mr. Rick Moyer.

*Mr. Collier moved the Board of Governors approve the naming of one position meeting room space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “Rick Moyer Family Offense and Running Backs Meeting Room.” The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.*

**Scott and Kerri Loveland Quarterbacks Coach Office** – President Best recommended to the Board to name one 142-square-foot office space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “*Scott and Kerri Loveland Quarterbacks Coach Office*” in honor of Mr. Scott and Mrs. Kerri Loveland.

*Dr. Wetzel moved the Board of Governors approve the naming of one 142-square-foot office space located in the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “Scott and Kerri Loveland Quarterbacks Coach Office.” The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.*

**Neuenschwander Family Lobby** – President Best recommended to the Board to name the lobby/reception area of the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the “*Neuenschwander Family Lobby*” in honor of Mr. David Neuenschwander.

Ms. Dandurand moved the Board of Governors approve the naming of the lobby/reception area of the Terry Noland Football Office Complex the "Neuenschwander Family Lobby." The motion was seconded by Mr. Collier and carried unanimously.

**Revisions to Board Policies Prohibiting Discrimination** – Agenda Item No. 14

Ms. Chapman referred the Board to Tab 12 of the meeting materials which contained a briefing paper and proposed revisions to delete Board Policy 1.2.155 Policy Prohibiting Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Harassment, and Sex Discrimination and incorporate its procedures into those for Board Policy 1.2.150 Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity (Attachment 11).

Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve the deletion of BOG Policy 1.2.155 and incorporate the reference to its procedures in BOG Policy 1.2.150, effective August 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.

**Report of the Nominating Committee** – Agenda Item No. 16

The Nominating Committee comprised of Dr. Wetzel and Ms. Dandurand recommended the following slate of Board officers for Fiscal Year 2025:

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

Dr. Chase moved that the Board of Governors accept the recommended slate of Board officers for Fiscal Year 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.

**Other Business** – Agenda Item No. 17

There was no other business.

**Request for Closed Session – June 13, 2024** – Agenda Item No. 18

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. Rogers and carried with the following roll call vote:

Gus Wetzel	aye	John Collier	aye
Stephen Abney	aye	Mary Dandurand	aye
Phyllis Chase	aye	Stu Rogers	aye

**Adjourn** – Agenda Item No. 19

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 12:33 p.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 2:46 p.m., and *Ms. Dandurand made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.* The Board adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

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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	FY 2025 Operating Budget Update
3	Annual Compliance Checklist
4	Written Governance Groups Reports
5	Legislative Update PowerPoint
6	2023-2024 UCM Community Service Efforts Report
7	FY 2026 Capital Appropriations Request
8	FY 2026 Operating Appropriations Request
9	Skyhaven Airport Master Plan PowerPoint
10	Naming of Space
11	Revisions to Board Policies Prohibiting Discrimination