

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
August 22, 2024

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on August 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in Union 237B on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board President John Collier. Others participating in the meeting from Union 237B were Governors Stephen Abney, Mary Dandurand, Stu Rogers, Gus Wetzel II, Ken Weymuth, and Hadley Oden, as well as University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer. Governor Phyllis Chase participated in the meeting via Zoom.

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 those in attendance and shared comments regarding his experiences when he last served as Board President. Mr. Collier stated it was invigorating to see the students back on campus, which reminds us that we are here to help transform our students into great leaders.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best expressed his appreciation to faculty, staff, and the Board of Governors for all the planning, involvement, and engagement that went into the start of the fall semester through activities such as UCM Kickoff and Week of Welcome. President Best introduced Nicole Cooke, who is serving as the Assistant Director for University Communications and Media Relations.

Recognition of Outgoing Board President - Agenda Item No. 4

In recognition of his years of service as Board President from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024, Mr. Collier presented Mr. Weymuth with a citation highlighting the accomplishments of the university under his leadership (Attachment 1) and an engraved gavel. Photographs were taken of the presentation.

Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 5

President Best stated the following individuals qualify for emeritus status in accordance with BOG Policy 2.1.070 – *Privileges Extended to Emeriti and Retired Employees* (Attachment 2):

- Mr. Ken Schueller (April 1, 1999 – July 31, 2024), Director, Success Advising Center
- Ms. Cathy McGraw Culp (January 13, 2003 – August 31, 2024), Assistant Instructor
- Ms. Melanie Gross (March 4, 1996 – August 31, 2024), Director, Academic Affairs Operation
- Dr. S. Mark Goodwin (August 16, 2007 – August 31, 2024), Associate Professor
- Dr. Robert Hallis (April 1, 1999 – August 31, 2024), Library Professor

- Dr. Tricia Hansen-Horn (August 23, 1999 – August 31, 2024), Professor
- Mr. Kip Janvrin (January 1, 1997 – August 31, 2024), Coach
- Dr. Carlotta Kimble (August 14, 2008 – August 31, 2024), Associate Professor

Dr. Wetzel moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Mr. Schueller, Ms. McGraw Culp, Ms. Gross, Dr. Goodwin, Dr. Hallis, Dr. Hansen-Horn, Mr. Janvrin, and Dr. Kimble. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously. Photographs were taken of Board President Collier and President Best presenting certificates to Mr. Schueller, Ms. McGraw Culp, Ms. Gross, Dr. Goodwin, Dr. Hallis, and Dr. Hansen-Horn. President Best introduced Flip Piontek, who attended the meeting on behalf of the Emeriti Association, noting it has been renamed the Emeriti and Retiree Association. Certificates will be mailed to Mr. Janvrin and Dr. Kimble, as they could not attend.

Plenary Session

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 6

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

Action

- June 13, 2024, Work Session and Plenary Session minutes

Information

- Annual Investment Report (Attachment 3)
- Annual Debt Service Report (Attachment 4)

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.

Reports/Updates

Written Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 7

Mr. Collier noted the written reports from the governance groups were included in the meeting packet (Attachment 5).

Enrollment Report for Fall 2024 – Agenda Item No. 8

Dr. Tim Crowley, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Mr. Chris Lang, Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Analytics, presented the enrollment report for the fall 2024 semester. Based on data from the first day of the semester, enrollment is down 1.8%, or 210 students, from this time last year. Dr. Crowley stated, however, that this is a very healthy class and reminded everyone that the previous year was a record year. The following subpopulations within the fall class were highlighted:

- New transfer students are up 14.5%, or 80 students.

- Domestic graduate students are up 10.6%, or 143 students.
- Dual credit is currently up 13.3%, or 61 students, which will continue to grow over the next few weeks.
- First-time freshmen are down 3.2%, or 33 students.
- New international graduate students are down 12.1%, or 444 students.
- Overall, this year's class has had a two-point shift to the undergraduate side and increased the percentage of incoming transfer students, gaining five points over last year.

Dr. Crowley stated the census date is four weeks away and approximately 1,000 students are expected to enroll primarily in dual credit classes before this date. Following the census, the 2025 recruitment cycle will begin with the key reflection point on yield. He stated it is important to recognize that even when you do everything right, market forces are still in play that impact every institution's ultimate yield of students.

In reference to the first time in college cohort, Mr. Lang noted there were increases in the up-funnel metrics, which include inquiries, applications, and admits, and organically, admits were up about 6%. He also shared a direct admit program was launched this year. Mr. Lang stated the big impact on enrollment was the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and reported that the percentage of the freshman class that filed a FAFSA was about 55%, down from about 70% last year. Using historical yield rates, Mr. Lang anticipated there could have been an additional 85-120 freshmen on campus had the FAFSA not presented the challenges that it did. Mr. Lang noted the biggest drop in UCM's population were students within the \$50,000-\$100,000 household income range who did not fill out the FAFSA. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, he reported there is some indication there will be a slow launch of the FAFSA for a small population of students to test beginning on October 1 and hopes for the fully functional FAFSA to be available by December 1.

Mr. Weymuth asked if it was possible to determine where the potential 85-120 students went. Mr. Lang responded that clearinghouse data would be available in October or November to show if those students went to another university or nowhere at all. Mr. Lang suspects that the students are either going to community college or not partaking in higher education this year, which presents an opportunity to recruit them back next year.

In response to Mr. Abney's question about the conversion rate, Mr. Lang shared that overall, there was about a 23.6% yield rate. The direct admit population yield was about 4%, and the organic yield rate was 27.3%. Last year, the yield rate was 30%. Students that filed the FAFSA this year were yielded at about 44% and those who did not file a FAFSA were yielded at about 6%.

Ms. Oden asked if the FAFSA will be accounted for in the pending enrollment cliff over the next 10 years. Mr. Lang responded that the issues with the FAFSA should correct themselves this upcoming year, allowing it to return to the regular process. He noted the changes to the FAFSA do make it easier for students to file, but a lot of the issues this year came from the negative press and the rocky rollout.

Mr. Rogers inquired about what has led to the increase in transfer enrollment. Mr. Lang shared that with the A+ scholarship program, more students have gone to community colleges instead of directly to a four-year school. UCM has done a better job of positioning ourselves to reach these students through a focus across campus for faculty and staff to recruit transfer students, better communication, and becoming more transfer-friendly through direct connect programs, such as those with State Fair Community College and North Central Missouri College. Mr. Weymuth expressed his appreciation for the hard work in increasing the transfer student enrollment.

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 9

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, provided a legislative update (Attachment 6) that included the following highlights:

- State Budget - Governor Mike Parson signed the state budget on June 28, 2024, which included a 3% increase in core funding, full funding for the final quarter of the transformational projects, and full funding for the MoExcels projects. The Governor vetoed the funding for the Missouri Returning Heroes Act, which resulted in about \$80,000 that will not be reimbursed to UCM. Overall, Mr. Pearce stated it was a great year and thanked Governor Parson and the Legislature for supporting the university's budget.
- State Policy - Mr. Pearce reported of the 28 nonbudget bills passed, the following two will have an impact on higher education:
 - Senate Bill 912, the Omnibus Military-Veterans Bill - included language for student tuition assistance for members of the National Guard.
 - Senate Bill 754, the Omnibus Crime Bill - included the creation of a 16-member cyber security task force that will include one higher education faculty member. Mr. Pearce stated that a UCM faculty member would apply to be on the task force.
- Federal Update - The fiscal year begins on October 1, 2024, and if a budget is not determined by then, Mr. Pearce anticipates there will be continuing resolutions to avoid a government shutdown. He highlighted the Protecting Student Athletes' Economic Freedom legislation that is sponsored by Representative Bob Good and prohibits student-athletes from becoming university employees. Mr. Pearce shared that conversations have taken place with Congressman Josh Hawley and Senator Eric Schmitt to express that UCM would favor this type of legislation.
- Recent Events – Mr. Pearce and Dr. Crowley attended the first meeting of the Special Interim Committee on Higher Education Funding in June 2024, which has since met again and is making some progress towards a performance funding model. Paul Wagner, Executive Director for the Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE), has requested feedback from UCM and other COPHE universities for input on the performance funding model. Mr. Pearce provided a recap of the Committee's implementation timeline, possibly for 2027-2028. Mr. Pearce pointed out that this is the House plan, and the Senate has not yet started working on the performance funding model.

Mr. Pearce shared highlights from recent campus visits including the Missouri Chamber of Commerce Leadership Missouri program to the Missouri Innovation Campus, the Missouri Military Advocate's Office to the Military and Veterans Success Center, and Patrick Flesch, the MoDOT Assistant Legislative Liaison to the Warrensburg community. Mr. Pearce and Board President Collier also provided comments regarding their recent attendance at the Missouri Governor's Ham Breakfast at the Missouri State Fair.

Intercollegiate Athletics Update – Agenda Item No. 10

Dr. Matt Howdeshell, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, expressed his appreciation for the support of the 2024 UCM Athletics Auction, which raised over \$150,000. A video prepared by Andi Sioteco, Athletics Creative Content Manager, was played highlighting the 2023-2024 achievements of student-athletes and coaches.

Additionally, Dr. Howdeshell reported enhancements to the fan experience this past year led to a 22% increase in attendance, which was anchored by football averaging over 9,000 attendees per game during the regular season. Volleyball also set an attendance record last year. The Cardinal and Black Fund was rebranded and has had a 36% increase in members and a 28% increase in revenue. Sponsorship and ticket sales revenue both grew as well. To maximize opportunities for student-athletes, UCM Athletics implemented a co-branded name image and likeness (NIL) marketplace with Opendorse, which is the first fee-free marketplace in NCAA Division II, and implemented an apparel marketplace with Influxer, where personalized merchandise can be purchased to support student-athletes.

Dr. Howdeshell stated the past year was a foundational year focused on organizational structure, communication, budget, strategic plan, and master facility plan. For the upcoming year, UCM Athletics will focus on mental health and building a mental health support program for student-athletes. A mental health counselor will begin on September 1, 2024, who will be dedicated to the mental health needs of student-athletes, which is the first in the MIAA Conference. Additional goals for the upcoming year include continuing to build the NIL education program, enhancing nutritional support for student-athletes, streamlining compliance systems and processes, marketing and fan experience, and implementing new policies and procedures in the business office for revenues and expenses.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 11

President Best acknowledged that UCM becoming the first fee-free marketplace for students in NCAA DII through the enhanced Opendorse platform was made possible through a connection with an alum and following conversations Dr. Howdeshell had with the company's CEO. In reference to the annual Career and Life Design report (Attachment 7) that was distributed by email to the Board, President Best stated the placement rate, or first destination success rate, was 94% for the most recent class, which is great news. In looking at salary information, UCM students with bachelor's and master's degrees were well above the Missouri average for the salaries of those with a high school degree only. President Best expressed his appreciation for the work of the Career and Life Design staff to facilitate the transition after college as well as the great education that our students receive from the faculty.

In follow-up to the fall semester enrollment report provided earlier in the meeting, President Best added that while the first-time full-time headcount was down 33 to start the semester, the housing numbers are up about 30. He stated this is good news as students living on campus tend to retain at a higher rate.

President Best provided the following staffing updates and introduced those in attendance to the Board: Dr. Doug Davenport, Interim Dean for the Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies (HCBPS); Dr. Matt Houseworth, Interim Associate Dean for HCBPS; Dr. Ann McCoy, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Services and the Graduate School; Dr. Matt Thomas, Interim Dean of the College of Education; Dr. Jaimee Hartenstein, Faculty Senate President; and Andrew Mather, University Photographer.

Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement

Mary Dandurand, Chair of the Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement, stated the Committee received a report from University Advancement at their meeting earlier in the day and expressed appreciation for the work their office is doing. Ms. Dandurand also noted that the activities calendar (Attachment 8) was distributed to the Board with the events planned for the fall semester.

Board Committee on Academic Affairs

The Board Committee on Academic Affairs did not meet.

Board Committee on Finance and Administration

Stu Rogers, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, reported that the Committee had met earlier in the day. Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, was asked to present the following agenda items.

2025 Health Insurance Renewal – Agenda Item No. 12

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 8 of the meeting packet containing information about the 2025 health insurance renewal plan with Blue Cross of Kansas City (Attachment 9) with a projected premium cost of \$14,086,732 for the university and \$3,162,801 for employees. Management recommended the renewal of rates and cost share for the January 1 through December 31, 2025, plan year as shown in Appendix B:

APPENDIX B. PROPOSED 2025 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	\$959.74	\$919.54	\$40.20
Emp +Spouse	\$1,832.60	\$1,301.64	\$530.96
Emp + Child(ren)	\$1,580.42	\$1,260.60	\$319.82
Family	\$2,356.70	\$1,386.90	\$969.80
Tier 2			
Employee Only	\$959.74	\$879.38	\$80.36
Emp +Spouse	\$1,832.60	\$1,261.46	\$571.14
Emp + Child(ren)	\$1,580.42	\$1,220.46	\$359.96
Family	\$2,356.70	\$1,346.74	\$1,009.96
Tier 3			
Employee Only	\$959.74	\$839.20	\$120.54
Emp +Spouse	\$1,832.60	\$1,221.28	\$611.32
Emp + Child(ren)	\$1,580.42	\$1,180.24	\$400.18
Family	\$2,356.70	\$1,306.56	\$1,050.14

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

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

Mr. Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the renewal of the 2025 health insurance plan with Blue Cross of Kansas City for January 1 through December 31, 2025, at the rates and cost share as shown in Appendix B. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.

Vision Insurance Contract – Agenda Item No. 13

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 9 of the meeting packet containing information about the vision insurance contract (Attachment 10). Management recommended the Board of Governors award a contract to Vision Service Plan (VSP) for vision coverage for January 1 through December 31, 2025, with three (3) one-year renewal options at an estimated annual premium

cost of \$107,317. For the 2025 plan year, UCM will continue offering two benefit plans through VSP with no rate change and no change to coverage. Plan design and premiums are included in the appendix of Attachment 10 to these minutes.

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the vision insurance contract with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for coverage from January 1 through December 31, 2025, with three (3) one-year renewal options. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzel and carried unanimously.

Board Business

Proposed 2025 Board Meeting Schedule – Agenda Item No. 14

President Best reviewed the proposed dates for the 2025 Board of Governors meetings (Attachment 11):

January 23-24, 2025

March 27-28, 2025

April 24-25, 2025

June 12-13, 2025

August 21-22, 2025

October 23-24, 2025

December 11-12, 2025

President Best noted the meetings are structured as two-day meetings; however, with the concurrence of the Board President, a one-day meeting may be recommended if the agenda is conducive. The dates designated as university holidays for FY 2025 were included for informational purposes.

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the dates listed above for the 2025 Board of Governors meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.

Board Committee Appointments – Agenda Item No. 15

Mr. Collier announced the 2024-2025 Board committee appointments:

Student Engagement and University Advancement

Mary Dandurand, Chair

Stephen Abney, Member

Ken Weymuth, Member

Hadley Oden, Member

Academic Affairs

Phyllis Chase, Chair

Mary Dandurand, Member

Gus Wetzel, Member

Finance and Administration

Stu Rogers, Chair
Stephen Abney, Member
Ken Weymuth, Member

Alumni Foundation Board Representative

Representative: John Collier
Alternate: Mary Dandurand

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 16

There was no other business to discuss.

Request for Closed Session – August 22, 2024 – Agenda Item No. 17

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:

<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>Phyllis Chase</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Stu Rogers</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Ken Weymuth</i>	<i>aye</i>		

Adjournment – Agenda Item No. 18

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 2:03 p.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 3:55 p.m., and Ms. Dandurand *made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.* The Board adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

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Attachments Listing**

<u>Attachment No.</u>	<u>Attachment Description</u>
1	Recognition of Outgoing Board President
2	Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions
3	Annual Investment Report
4	Annual Debt Service Report
5	Written Governance Groups Reports
6	Legislative Update PowerPoint
7	Career and Life Design Report
8	Fall 2024 Student Activities Calendar
9	2025 Health Insurance Renewal
10	Vision Insurance Contract
11	Proposed 2025 Board Meeting Schedule