

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
January 23, 2025

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on January 23, 2025, at 1:16 p.m. in the Elliott Student Union, Room 237B on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board President John Collier. Others participating in the meeting were Governors Stephen Abney, Phyllis Chase, 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 everyone to the first Board of Governors meeting of 2025. He provided an overview of the campus events held during the week to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best expressed his appreciation to all who have helped with the start of the spring semester. He also thanked Dr. Chase for attending the MLK Freedom Scholarship Celebration on behalf of the Board, all others who attended and supported the scholarship, and the committee for their work in planning the events.

Emeritus Status Request and Recognition – Agenda Item No. 4

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

- Ms. Susan Delap (July 19, 1998 – January 31, 2025), Manager, Business/Fiscal Operations, Online and Learning Engagement

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Ms. Susan Delap. Ms. Dandurand seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. President Best introduced Mr. Flip Piontek, who was in attendance on behalf of the Emeriti and Retiree Association to officially welcome Ms. Delap into the association. A photograph was taken of Board President Collier and President Best presenting Ms. Delap with a certificate of appreciation.

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Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 5

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

Action

- December 13, 2024, Plenary Session Minutes
- A new graduate certificate in Corporate Training effective Fall 2025, pending approval by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development/Coordinating Board for Higher Education (Attachment 2)
- Award of a five (5)-year contract to StarRez, Inc. of Greenwood Village, Colorado, for a housing management system beginning on February 1, 2025, with a total overall cost of \$497,666.67 (Attachment 3)

Information Items

- FY 2025 Second Quarter Investment Report (Attachment 4)
- FY 2025 Second Quarter Financial Report (Attachment 5)

Dr. Wetzel moved that the Board of Governors approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weymuth and carried unanimously.

Reports/Updates

Written Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 6

Mr. Collier noted the written reports from the governance groups were included in the meeting packet (Attachment 6).

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 7

President Best presented the legislative update report on behalf of Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, who could not attend (Attachment 7). The report began with an overview of recent activities Mr. Pearce attended at the beginning of the Missouri legislative session, including the swearing-in of Governor Kehoe and the Missouri Prayer Breakfast, which Board President Collier attended with him.

Over 1,000 bills have been filed, and President Best provided additional information regarding the following that have a potential impact on higher education:

- House Bill 183 filed by Representative Parker; Senate Bill 69 filed by Senator Henderson - modifies the 'Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act,' which would require UCM to take 60 hours of credit from a community college and apply it towards a degree.
- House Bill 265 filed by Representative Shields – would increase the Access Missouri financial aid program to \$3,500 per student.
- House Bill 496 filed by Representative Christ – would provide free tuition for first responders. President Best shared this is something the university is concerned about

because, if it is similar to the Returning Heroes Act, the state has not reimbursed the university for the tuition provided through that program. He stated the university is hopeful that this would not be the case for the first responders, as it would be a nice program.

- Senate Bill 184 filed by Senator Cierpiot - provides a tax credit for amateur sporting events held in Missouri. President Best shared that the MIAA hosts a couple of tournaments in Missouri that receive a tax credit, and this is a program the university would advocate continuing.

President Best stated that with the change of administrations at the federal level, the university monitors closely the following, which have an impact on higher education: immigration reform, the possibility of tax cuts, tariffs, cabinet confirmations, and executive orders.

President Best shared that he and the presidents of other Missouri public universities, would meet with Governor Kehoe the following day to discuss the higher education budget for the next year. The budget recommendations will be announced by Governor Kehoe in the State of the State Address scheduled for the following week.

President Best concluded the report by sharing photographs of UCM alums currently working in Jefferson City that he and Mr. Pearce recently saw. These alumni include Cade Tremain, Jake Kroesen, and Maranda Burke.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 8

President Best reiterated this is the time of year where the university watches closely what is happening with the legislature in Jefferson City and a lot of time is spent there both individually and collectively. President Best shared the Alumni Foundation provided a favorable report earlier in the day regarding the progress they have made so far this year with fundraising and alumni engagement. He expressed his thanks to their staff and other campus departments, along with the Board for their support, who all work together to make the university special.

Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement

Ms. Mary Dandurand, Chair of the Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement, reported on the Fashion and Apparel Merchandising program student panel and Alumni Foundation update that were presented during the meeting held earlier in the day.

Board Committee on Academic Affairs

Dr. Phyllis Chase, Chair of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day. They discussed the new graduate certificate in Corporate Training that was approved on the Plenary Session Consent Agenda and received an update on enrollment.

Board Committee on Finance and Administration

Mr. Stu Rogers, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, stated the Committee had a productive meeting earlier in the day that included a discussion on the StarRez

housing management system contract, which was approved on the Plenary Session Consent Agenda.

Board Business

Proposed Naming – Agenda Item No. 9

President Best presented the following naming opportunities in accordance with BOG Policy 1.2.090 Naming Buildings, Rooms, and Special Use Facilities (attachment 8).

Murdock Banner Financial Group – Dr. Best stated the university has a precedent of naming spaces on campus on a temporary basis for sponsorship purposes. UCM Athletics has worked with Murdock Banner Financial Group on a three (3)-year sponsorship package to name the Suite Levels 1 and 2 at Audrey J. Walton Stadium the Murdock Banner Financial Group Suites. Mr. Abney asked if there were renewals written into the contract, and President Best stated an automatic renewal was not written into the contract. Dr. Matt Howdeshell, Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics, answered a question from Mr. Abney regarding the background on the name. In discussion with Murdock Banner Financial Group, the proposed and preferred name for the space was the Murdock Banner Financial Group Suites, and clarified the naming is only for the hospitality space outside the suites, not the individual suites. Another name discussed was the Murdock Banner Financial Group Premium Levels.

Discussion followed regarding concerns that suite holders might have with this naming. Following a question from Mr. Rogers, the discussion continued regarding how the suite holders' names are displayed on a placard outside the suite by the room number and does not include the word 'suite.' Dr. Howdeshell clarified the sponsorship with Murdock Banner is for advertising and marketing and does not include access to a suite. A suite licensee's agreement is for hospitality space in a suite, not for advertising. Mr. Weymuth asked if Murdock Banner would be satisfied with the alternate name discussed using 'premium levels' instead of 'suites', and Dr. Howdeshell confirmed they would. Dr. Chase commented that use of the word 'suites' in the naming may confuse people looking for a particular suite. Mr. Rogers shared that he liked the advertising concept; however, he was concerned about using 'suites' in the name and thought it would be better received by current partners if the verbiage were slightly different.

Mr. Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the naming of Suite Levels 1 and 2 at the Audrey J. Walton Stadium the "Murdock Banner Financial Group Premium Levels" for the length of the three (3)-year agreement. Mr. Rogers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Blaine Whitworth Disc Golf Course – President Best recommended the disc golf course, which will be located on the site of the old fraternity complex, be named the Blaine Whitworth Disc Golf Course in honor of UCM alumnus Blaine Whitworth, a 2009 graduate who was tragically murdered in Warrensburg. Following his death, his parents, Barry and Diane Whitworth, who are also alums, established the Blaine Whitworth Go Big or Go Home Foundation. They have been very active with the university over the years and generous in providing gifts to different programs and scholarships through their foundation and personally. Their gift for the disc golf course surpasses the 50% threshold for the actual construction costs of the course. Mr. Jeff Rehm, Assistant Director for Outdoor Education, shared that the disc golf course construction

should be complete by April 5, 2025, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for April 12, 2025.

Mr. Weymuth expressed his appreciation for the tremendous support of Barry and Diane Whitworth for the university. He asked if the area ever needed to be repurposed for something else, was there flexibility to move the disc golf course. Ms. Beth Rutt, Director of Student Activities and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, explained the construction of the golf course was designed to place the poles in sleeves where they can come out and be capped if the space was needed for other events. President Best added there are concrete pads but essentially the design is zero profile. He also explained the Board has the authority to repurpose the use of property, whether it is named or not. Mr. Abney asked if the Whitworths were potentially aware that the disc golf course could be moved in the future. President Best responded that he did not know if that was said to them but thought they would implicitly be aware of the possibility from all of the change that has happened on campus over the years. President Best confirmed there are no plans to use the property other than for the disc golf course. He also noted the master plan did not include very much development for that property other than walking trails and the relocation of intramural items, which would be consistent with the disc golf course.

Mr. Rogers asked how many people are participating in disc golf. Mr. Rehm shared there are about 15 students in the club, and as a club sport, they can compete against other universities. President Best shared that the Kansas City area is active in disc golf and that adding the course on campus could be used for recruitment purposes. Mr. Weymuth asked if a clubhouse is needed, and President Best shared that at some point it would be nice to have some structures there that hopefully would be 100% donor-funded. Ms. Rutt explained they would like to put in three structures like the pavilion at Pertle Springs that hold picnic tables and a grill. President Best reiterated they would not be built without Board approval.

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the naming of the campus disc golf course the "Blaine Whitworth Disc Golf Course." Ms. Dandurand seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 10

There was no other business to discuss.

Request for Closed Session - January 23, 2025 – Agenda Item No. 11

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. 13

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 2:02 p.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 3:54 p.m., and *Dr. Chase made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

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Attachments Listing

<u>Attachment No.</u>	<u>Attachment Description</u>
1	Emeritus Status Request and Recognition
2	New Graduate Certificate – Corporate Training
3	Housing Management System Contract
4	FY 2025 Second Quarter Investment Report
5	FY 2025 Second Quarter Financial Report
6	Written Governance Groups Reports
7	Legislative Update
8	Proposed Naming