

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
April 24, 2025

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on April 24, 2025, at 1:20 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. Governor Phyllis Chase was unable to attend the meeting and was excused.

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 it was an exciting time on campus as the end of the semester nears. He highlighted recent events held on campus and shared comments he had personally received regarding how incredible the President's Gala performance was at the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best expressed his appreciation to those attending the meeting. He congratulated UCM Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, Dr. Matt Howdeshell, and his wife, Hiliary, on the birth of their son. President Best also recognized Ms. Courtney Goddard, Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the UCM Alumni Foundation, for her selection by *Ingram's* as a 2025 Icon of Education. He also thanked everyone who attended or participated in the President's Gala, which was a great showing for UCM.

Introductions and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 4

- **Byler Distinguished Faculty Award Recipient** – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Tim Crowley introduced the 2025 Byler Distinguished Faculty Award Recipient, Dr. Yuankun Yao, Professor of Education, and a video representing the many reasons he was selected for the award was shown. Board President Collier and President Best presented Dr. Yao with a plaque and had a photograph taken with him.
- **Governor's Excellence in Education Award Recipient** – Provost Crowley introduced the 2025 Governor's Excellence in Education Award Recipient, Dr. Natalie Tye, Associate Professor of Elementary Education, and a video representing the many reasons she was selected for the award was shown. Board President Collier and President Best presented Dr. Tye with a plaque and had a photograph taken with her.

- *Charno Award Recipients* – Dr. Shari Bax, Vice President for Student Experience and Engagement, provided background information on the Charno Award and explained the selection process. Dr. Bax introduced the 2025 recipients and provided an overview of their university involvement: Alyssa Robertson, an Agricultural Science major from Clinton, Missouri, and Marie Hall, an Anthropology major from Grain Valley, Missouri. A photograph was taken of Ms. Hall with Board President Collier and President Best. Due to a pre-existing conflict, Ms. Robertson was unable to attend. Both recipients will speak at the undergraduate commencement ceremony for their college in May.
- *Education for Service Award Recipients* – Introductions were made of three individuals receiving the Education for Service Award. Student recipient Andrea Garcia Tover was introduced by Dr. Bax; faculty recipient Dr. Julie Stephens de Jonge was introduced by Dr. Jaimee Hartenstein, Faculty Senate President; and staff recipient Ms. Courtney Swoboda was introduced by Ms. Rae Clements, Staff Council President. Each recipient was presented with a plaque and had photographs taken with Board President Collier and President Best.

Plenary Session

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 5

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

Action Items

- March 27, 2025, Plenary Session Minutes.
- Award of contract to Reinhold Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$535,000 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to replace the electrical switchgear in the Todd Residence Hall as stated in the bid specifications (Attachment 1).
- Award of contract to Civic Elite Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,374,697.50 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to install a self-serve fuel facility and access road at Skyhaven Airport located to the north of the new terminal, pending Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) concurrence and receipt of all grant funds (Attachment 2).

Information Items

- FY 2025 Third Quarter Investment Report (Attachment 3).
- FY 2025 Third Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenses (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

Verbal Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 6

- Faculty Senate – Dr. Jaimee Hartenstein, Faculty Senate President, provided an overview of the Faculty Senate's accomplishments for the academic year, noting that one of the most significant was the completion of the faculty workload policy that will be implemented in Fall 2025. She stated that the General Education Committee made substantial progress in aligning assessment efforts with general education outcomes, which was a goal developed from feedback from the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation review. The Academic Standards Committee undertook a significant review of policies throughout the academic year and submitted a number of motions with revisions to Dr. Best for the field trip, grades, grading system, academic appeal, and syllabi policies. The Distance Education Committee worked to refine course evaluations to ensure they are more accurate for electronically delivered courses. The Professional Enhancement Committee (PEC) approved sabbaticals and awarded \$27,910 in PEC grants to 38 different faculty members. Dr. Hartenstein shared that the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate Executive Committee will be President Steve Price, Vice President Daniel Wolcott, CHST Representative Katie Kage, CAHSS Representative Shannon Johnson, HCBPS Representative Matthew Furedy, COE Representative Odin Jurkowski, and Library Services Representative Sara Evans. Dr. Hartenstein expressed her appreciation to faculty serving on committees and stated it was her honor to serve as the Faculty Senate President. Mr. Collier and President Best thanked her for her service and dedication to the university.
- Staff Council – Ms. Rae Clements, Staff Council President, provided an overview of the guest speakers and topics that were presented throughout the semester at the monthly meetings, which included Carol Knight, Director of Digital Learning and Instructional Innovation, who presented on the transition from Blackboard to Brightspace; Joyce Lawson, Human Resources Senior Strategic Partner and Benefits Specialist, who provided updates on changes from PeopleAdmin to NEOED; and David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, who provided a legislative update. Ms. Clements reported that a summary of topics discussed with Dr. Best during the Pastries with the President events was distributed to staff earlier that day. She shared that Staff Council elections are taking place and will be wrapped up by the May Staff Council meeting. The transition in Staff Council leadership will take place in July. She highlighted two upcoming events planned for staff: the annual staff appreciation breakfast event on May 8, 2025, and the staff development day on May 15, 2025. Ms. Clements thanked the Board for supporting the Staff Council, and President Best thanked Ms. Clements for her service on Staff Council.
- Student Government Association (SGA) – Ms. Karlie Franklin, SGA President, reported it had been a successful semester and provided an overview of events SGA recently hosted, including the annual memorial service to recognize faculty, staff, and students who had passed during the academic year and a clothing swap shop during Earth Week. Ms. Franklin announced Dr. Mara Woody was selected as the 2025 recipient of the SGA

Excellence in Governance Award, and Ms. Rae Clements was selected as the 2025 SGA Excellence in Service Award recipient. She stated both recipients would be recognized at a dinner and awards ceremony planned for later that evening. She shared the inauguration of the 2025-2026 SGA officers will be held on April 29, 2025. The SGA President will be Calena Malicoat, and Vice President will be Jesse Moore. Ms. Franklin thanked the Board for their time and stated it was an honor to serve as the SGA President. President Best thanked Ms. Franklin for serving the students this past year.

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 7

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, provided a legislative update (Attachment 5), which included the following information –

State Level

Mr. Pearce stated the deadline for the budget to be finalized is 6:00 p.m. on May 9, 2025, and provided an overview of budget actions related to higher education that the House and Senate have taken. The House added a 1.5% increase to core funding for higher education and a 1.5% increase for maintenance and repair that would be based on the replacement value of assets. The Senate changed the request to a 3% increase for core funding, and it appeared to be unlikely that they would add an increase for maintenance and repair. Mr. Pearce explained that the differences would be worked out in the Conference Committee on Budget meetings planned for May 5-9, 2025.

Mr. Pearce provided an update on the six bills relating to higher education that have been tracked throughout the legislative session. Mr. Pearce stated that Senate Bill 69, the Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act, and Senate Bill 11, which allows doctoral programs to be offered at universities other than the University of Missouri, have been added to the same piece of legislation. He also shared that Paul Wagner, Executive Director for the Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE), has been working in the background to ensure money would be appropriated to cover the tuition for first responders that would be free under House Bill 496 and Senate Bill 71 if passed. Mr. Pearce stated the deadline on the policy side is May 16, 2025.

Mr. Pearce shared photographs and highlights from recent events and meetings in Jefferson City that included the COPHE Governor's Excellence in Education luncheon where Dr. Natalie Tye was honored as UCM's award recipient; visits to the Missouri State Capitol by students in the Marriage and Family Therapy program and Rotary Sterling Scholar, Chioma Agwuncha; Military Day at the Capitol; and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce's Technology 2030 Launch.

Federal Level

Mr. Pearce reported that issues at the federal level continue to be monitored, primarily through the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Mr. Pearce shared he would be attending the AASCU on the Hill event planned for April 29-30, 2025, where he will meet with elected officials to discuss issues that are directly impacting our current and future students.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 8

President Best reported that a fourth direct connect agreement and four articulation agreements were recently signed with Moberly Area Community College at the Columbia, Missouri campus. The direct connect agreements help to ensure a seamless transfer for students from community college to UCM. He noted these efforts are starting to be reflected in enrollment numbers, as the current trends for Fall 2025 show over 7% more admitted transfer students than at this time last year. President Best expressed his appreciation to Provost Crowley, Vice Provost Ann McCoy, their staff, and the community colleges for working together.

President Best shared that the season of celebration continues with Founder’s Day celebrations planned for April 29-30, 2025, followed by commencement ceremonies on May 9-10, 2025, where 2,000 students are expected to graduate.

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 day and hosted a panel consisting of three faculty members and three students who shared about the Global Vision Program. She stated that the Alumni Foundation will provide a report at the August meeting.

Board Committee on Academic Affairs

The Board Committee on Academic Affairs did not meet this month.

Board Committee on Finance and Administration

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

Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget – Agenda Item No. 9

Mr. Hawley presented the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Operating Budget (Attachment 6) to the Board for approval contingent upon the final budget reconciliation in June 2025 that was discussed in detail during the Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole. *Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve the FY 2026 Operating Budget, contingent upon the final budget reconciliation in June 2025. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wetzel and carried unanimously.*

Board Business

Proposed Honorary Naming – Agenda Item No. 10

President Best recommended to the Board that the Department of Aviation’s new virtual reality flight simulation lab located in Room 203 of the T.R. Gaines Technology Building be named in honor of Dr. John W. “Jack” Horine (Attachment 7). Dr. Horine served at the university for more

than 50 years, was instrumental in the founding of the aviation program in 1968, served as the department chair for the Power and Transportation Department, created the first ever Master of Science program in Aviation Safety, and served as the graduate coordinator for the Aviation Safety program, even after he officially retired. President Best stated that Dr. Horine is a legend in the world of aviation who has had an impact on thousands of people both directly and indirectly in the industry.

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the honorary naming of the Department of Aviation virtual reality lab located in Room 203 of the T.R. Gaines Technology Building, the 'Dr. John W. "Jack" Horine Virtual Reality Flight Simulation Lab.' Ms. Dandurand seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

President Best introduced Dr. Horine's family in attendance at the meeting, which included Karen and Emmitt Brandt, Rob and Cheryl Horine, and Terri and Jim Helmig. A photograph was taken of Board President Collier and President Best with the family members.

Appointment of the Nominating Committee – Agenda Item No. 11

Mr. Collier announced the appointment of Ms. Dandurand and Dr. Chase to serve as the Nominating Committee for the FY 2026 Board Officers. A recommendation will be presented at the June Board meeting.

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 12

There was no other business to discuss.

Request for Closed Session – April 24, 2025 – Agenda Item No. 13

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

Adjournment – Agenda Item No. 14

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 2:22 p.m. Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 4:32 p.m., and *Ms. Dandurand made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

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Attachments Listing

<u>Attachment No.</u>	<u>Attachment Description</u>
1	Todd Residence Hall - Electrical Switchgear Replacement
2	Skyhaven Airport Fuel Facility and Access Road Contract Rebid
3	FY 2025 Third Quarter Investment Report
4	FY 2025 Third Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenses
5	Legislative Update
6	Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
7	Proposed Honorary Naming