

**University of Central Missouri  
Board of Governors  
Plenary Session  
March 26, 2026**

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on March 26, 2026, at 2:15 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 Mary Dandurand, Stu Rogers, Gus Wetzel II, and Ken Weymuth; University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer. Governor Stephen Abney 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 attendees to the meeting. He provided an overview of students' spring semester accomplishments and offered his congratulations to those who participated in the Missouri Association of Forensic Activities State Championship, U.S. Bank Idea Jam, Missouri Natural Resources Conference, American Criminal Justice Association/Lambda Alpha Epsilon Nationals, and MAGIC Trade Show for Fashion and Apparel Merchandising students. He also congratulated UCM student-athletes for their outstanding seasons in basketball, indoor track and field, and wrestling. Mr. Collier also shared the following recent rankings the university has received: #3 Master of Business Administration Program in Missouri from MBAschools.org; #5 among RN programs in Missouri in 2025 from NursingExplorer; and #14 among Best Online Bachelor's in Computer Science Programs from TechGuide.

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

President Best expressed his appreciation to the Board for their discussion during the committee meeting held earlier in the day about ways to improve persistence and retention rates. In April, information and potential action items will be presented to the Board for consideration. He said it's important to act decisively when we see concerning patterns and thanked the Board for their support.

**Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 4**

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):

- Ms. Catherine Seeley (May 18, 2005 – February 28, 2026), Director of the Office of Accessibility Services
- Mr. Jeffrey Robinson (October 21, 2002 – February 28, 2026), Director of Contracts, Compliance, and Risk Management
- Ms. Teresa Cannon (August 16, 2006 – March 31, 2026), Manager, Payroll Services

**Mr. Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Ms. Catherine Seeley, Mr. Jeffrey Robinson, and Ms. Teresa Cannon. Ms. Dandurand seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

Certificates will be mailed to the recipients who were unable to attend the meeting.

## **PLENARY SESSION**

### **Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 5**

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

#### **Action Items**

- January 22, 2026, Plenary Session and February 24, 2026, Special Plenary Session minutes;
- Renaming of the Earth Science Minor to the Environmental Science Minor, effective for the Fall 2026 Catalog (Attachment 2);
- Name change for the Department of Marketing, Public Relations, and Sport Management to the Department of Marketing and Sport Management, effective July 1, 2026 (Attachment 3);
- Name change for the Department of Communication and Digital Media Production to the Department of Communication, effective July 1, 2026 (Attachment 4);
- Purchase of all Ellucian Solutions and Services as presented in the 5-year agreement, with a total 5-year cost of \$5,297,202 (Attachment 5);
- A change order to the contract with Reinhold Electric, Inc., for the Todd Residence Hall electrical switchgear replacement project in the amount of \$66,254 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to complete the project as stated in the bid specifications (Attachment 6);
- Amendment to the previous approval on the East and North Ellis Residence Hall Roof Replacement project to award a contract to G&R Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$438,980 to provide all labor, materials, and provisions necessary for the replacement of the roof on the East and North Ellis Residence Hall (Attachment 7);
- Award of contract to Centric Projects to provide construction services for the Marching Mules band practice and storage facility in the amount of \$3,202,990 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to prepare the site and complete the project (Attachment 8);
- Award of contract to Mid-America Sports Construction in the amount of \$1,107,768 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to prepare each site for the installation of artificial turf on the University of Central Missouri campus at the East Practice Field located at 400 Anderson Street, and the Jennies Softball and Soccer Fields located at 600 East Hale Lake Road, Warrensburg, Missouri. (Attachment 9);
- Award of contract to Mid-America Sports Construction in the amount of \$1,483,186 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to install artificial turf on the University of Central Missouri campus at the East Practice Field located at 400 Anderson Street, and the Jennies Softball and Soccer Fields located at 600 East Hale Lake Road, Warrensburg, Missouri (Attachment 10);

- Award of contract to Robbins Sports Surfaces in the amount not to exceed \$726,960 to provide all labor, materials, installation, and all other items necessary to replace the wood floor surface in the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center (Attachment 11); and
- Award of contract to Impact Signs Awnings Wraps, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$610,000 to provide all labor, materials, bonds, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to remove, replace, and upgrade the video scoreboard in Walton Stadium on the University of Central Missouri campus at 501 South Washington Street, Warrensburg, Missouri (Attachment 12).

#### **Information Items**

- Spring 2026 Enrollment Census Report (Attachment 13);
- 2025-2026 President's Delegated Authority Program Actions (Attachment 14); and
- Promotions and Tenure (Attachment 15).

**Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. Dr. Wetzel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

### **REPORTS/UPDATES**

#### **Written Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 6**

Mr. Collier noted that the Written Governance Groups Reports were included in the meeting packet under Tab 20 (Attachment 16).

#### **Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 7**

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, provided the legislative update (Attachment 17), beginning with a brief overview of federal level issues, including the partial government shutdown.

At the state budget level, Mr. Pearce announced that the Missouri House of Representatives had approved its version of the budget within the last hour, which will go to the Senate next week and must be approved by 6:00 p.m. on May 8, 2026. Mr. Pearce reminded the Board that Governor Kehoe originally recommended level funding for public higher education institutions for the next fiscal year, which would allocate \$67.98 million to UCM. Mr. Pearce provided an overview of the new funding formula for higher education proposed by House Budget Chair Dirk Deaton, which was unveiled to university presidents about three weeks prior, that places higher education funding in a pool and reallocates it based on the number of full-time equivalent students. Community colleges would receive \$3,650 per student, and four-year institutions would receive \$8,400 per student. This would be a \$8.1 million reduction in funding for UCM. Mr. Pearce reported that this funding model was hotly debated and passed by one vote. President Best added that the formula used one metric, from one semester, in one academic year, which, unfortunately, was the worst year for UCM. He stated that this funding model could lead to wide year-over-year swings in funding and other challenges. President Best and Mr. Pearce have been visiting with members of the Senate and will continue to do so, to let them know how this funding proposal would be detrimental to higher education and UCM. President Best expressed appreciation to Representative Brandon Phelps, who has been very attuned to the issue and has worked with colleagues to share the detrimental impact of this funding model for UCM and those within his district.

Regarding state policy, Mr. Pearce reported that 3,000 bills have been filed this legislative session, with 7 of them relating to higher education. He reported that the likelihood of any of them passing as a standalone bill is not high, as none have been heard by the entire Chamber.

Mr. Pearce shared highlights from recent university events and meetings at the State Capitol, including Student Government Association Day, International Education Day, and meetings with UCM interns and elected officials. Mr. Pearce also shared photographs from meetings he, Board President Collier, and UCM President Best attended during their annual legislative trip to Washington, D.C., which took place just prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Pearce provided the Board with a handout that was shared during these meetings that shows the UCM student population by congressional district. He also shared an overview of upcoming events for April.

### **University Update – Agenda Item No. 8**

President Best provided an overview of distributions to the Board since the last meeting, highlighting the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity (OSPRI) FY 2025 annual report (Attachment 18). President Best thanked Ms. Kathy Schnakenberg for serving as the interim director of OSPRI, and shared that following a reorganization, Dr. Josiah Nyangau is now responsible for OSPRI as the Associate Vice Provost for Assessment, Accreditation, and Sponsored Programs.

### **University Metrics Report – Agenda Item No. 9**

President Best introduced Dr. Jason Morrill, Associate Vice President for University Analytics and Institutional Research, who joined the university earlier in the year and prepared the University Metrics Report, located on Tab 21 of the meeting packet (Attachment 19). President Best provided an overview of the report, noting that a correction to the student credit hours by college chart had been made. The data was correct, but the years were shifted by a year. President Best clarified that the course fill rate is a percentage of seats made available, not necessarily the number of seats in the classroom. He highlighted the improvement in the first-destination success rate, noting that it is preliminary. President Best stated that he and Provost Crowley are watching the increase in the number of credit hours taught by adjuncts and the faculty FTE number. President Best highlighted the UCM Standard & Poor's Global Rating of A+ with a stable outlook and thanked the finance and accounting team for their work to ensure the university is financially strong.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

Ms. Mary Dandurand, Chair of the Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement, stated that the committee met this afternoon and heard from a panel of students from KMUL 100.3, the Muleskinner, and Digital Media Production. She thanked Dr. Shari Bax, Vice President of Student Experience and Engagement, for bringing together a great group of students and expressed how great it was to hear directly from them about their campus experience.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Dr. Gus Wetzel, Chair of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, reported that the committee met earlier in the day and discussed name changes for a minor and two departments, promotion and tenure, and student enrollment and retention.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Stu Rogers, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, stated that the committee met earlier in the day and discussed many items that were approved on the consent agenda. He invited Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, to present the following agenda items.

### **AY 2027 Student Instructional Tuition and General Fees – Agenda Item No. 10**

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 22 of the meeting materials, which contained the proposed Academic Year (AY) 2027 student instructional tuition and general fees (Attachment 20).

**Mr. Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the following AY 2027 rates for student instructional tuition and general fees as itemized in Attachments I and II. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.**



**ATTACHMENT II**  
**University of Central Missouri**  
**AY 2027 Student General Fees**  
**Presented to the Board of Governors on March 26, 2026**

| Fee Description                       | Academic Year 2026       |                           | Academic Year 2027       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                       | Per Credit Hour (<9 Hrs) | Flat Rate (9+ Credit Hrs) | Per Credit Hour (<9 Hrs) | Flat Rate (9+ Credit Hrs) |
| Athletic                              | \$8.70                   | \$130.50                  | \$9.20                   | \$138.00                  |
| Facilities                            | \$8.05                   | \$120.75                  | \$8.95                   | \$134.25                  |
| Pertle Springs                        | \$2.27                   | \$34.05                   | \$2.35                   | \$35.25                   |
| Student Activity                      | \$2.43                   | \$36.45                   | \$2.55                   | \$38.25                   |
| Technology                            | \$6.40                   | \$96.00                   | \$6.70                   | \$100.50                  |
| University Union                      | \$9.17                   | \$137.55                  | \$9.45                   | \$141.75                  |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                      | <b>\$37.02</b>           | <b>\$555.30</b>           | <b>\$39.20</b>           | <b>\$588.00</b>           |
| Health Services                       | \$3.20                   | \$48.00                   | \$3.30                   | \$49.50                   |
| Student Rec Center (Student Approved) | \$11.33                  | \$169.95                  | \$11.50                  | \$172.50                  |
| <b>Total Student General Fees</b>     | <b>\$51.55</b>           | <b>\$773.25</b>           | <b>\$54.00</b>           | <b>\$810.00</b>           |

## AY 2026-2027 Room and Board Rates – Agenda Item No. 11

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 23 of the meeting materials for the proposed AY 2026-2027 room and board rates (Attachment 21).

**Mr. Rogers moved that the Board of Governors approve the following semester room and board rates for the 2026-2027 Academic Year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.**

### AY 2026-2027 ROOM AND BOARD RATES

|                                                                         | 2025-2026 Rate | 2026-2027 Recommended Rate | \$ Change | % Change |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Double Occupancy                                                        | \$3,394.00     | \$3,500.00                 | \$106.00  | 3.12%    |
| Single Occupancy                                                        | \$4,118.00     | \$4,250.00                 | \$132.00  | 3.21%    |
|                                                                         |                |                            |           |          |
| Silver Plan (meal)                                                      | \$2,076.00     | \$2,153.00                 | \$77.00   | 3.71%    |
| Gold Plan (meal)                                                        | \$2,169.00     | \$2,244.00                 | \$75.00   | 3.45%    |
| Platinum Plan (meal)                                                    | \$2,375.00     | \$2,446.00                 | \$71.00   | 2.99%    |
|                                                                         |                |                            |           |          |
| Silver Plan + Double Occupancy                                          | \$5,470.00     | \$5,653.00                 | \$183.00  | 3.35%    |
| Gold Plan + Double Occupancy                                            | \$5,563.00     | \$5,744.00                 | \$181.00  | 3.25%    |
| Platinum Plan + Double Occupancy                                        | \$5,769.00     | \$5,946.00                 | \$177.00  | 3.07%    |
|                                                                         |                |                            |           |          |
| Foster/Knox/Nickerson (furnished and utilities included)                | \$884.00       | \$911.00                   | \$27.00   | 3.05%    |
|                                                                         |                |                            |           |          |
| Todd 1 bedroom (furnished and utilities included)                       | \$884.00       | \$911.00                   | \$27.00   | 3.05%    |
| Todd 2 bedroom (furnished and utilities included)                       | \$1,086.00     | \$1,120.00                 | \$34.00   | 3.13%    |
|                                                                         |                |                            |           |          |
| Central Village 1 bedroom (unfurnished, residents pay gas and electric) | \$722.00       | \$744.00                   | \$22.00   | 3.05%    |
| Central Village 2 bedroom (unfurnished, residents pay gas and electric) | \$870.00       | \$897.00                   | \$27.00   | 3.10%    |
| Central Village 3 bedroom (unfurnished, residents pay gas and electric) | \$1,040.00     | \$1,072.00                 | \$32.00   | 3.08%    |
|                                                                         |                |                            |           |          |
| Greenwood Park 2 bedroom (unfurnished, residents pay gas and electric)  | \$950.00       | \$979.00                   | \$29.00   | 3.05%    |
|                                                                         |                |                            |           |          |
| The Crossing 4 bedroom (furnished and utilities included)               | \$704.00       | \$726.00                   | \$22.00   | 3.13%    |
| The Crossing 4 bedroom garden (furnished and utilities included)        | \$704.00       | \$726.00                   | \$22.00   | 3.13%    |
| The Crossing 2 bedroom (furnished and utilities included)               | \$822.00       | \$847.00                   | \$25.00   | 3.04%    |

**Graduation Fees for Graduate Students – Agenda Item No. 12**

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 24 of the meeting materials for the increase in graduation fee charged to graduate students from \$50 to \$75 (Attachment 22).

**Dr. Wetzel moved that the Board of Governors approve the increase in graduate student graduation fee from \$50 to \$75, effective August 10, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weymuth and carried unanimously.**

**BOARD BUSINESS**

**Proposal for Additional Fiscal Year 2027 Holiday - Agenda Item No. 13**

President Best outlined the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 holiday schedule in accordance with Board Policy 1.2.100 and requested approval for one additional president assigned holiday, for a total of eight days (Attachment 23). President Best provided background information on fall break and explained its timing, which typically falls in the middle of the fall semester and is scheduled relative to the date of Homecoming.

**Ms. Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve one additional Fiscal Year 2027 holiday to be assigned by the University President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weymuth and carried unanimously.**

**Other Business – Agenda Item No. 14**

There was no other business.

**Request for Closed Session – March 26, 2026 – Agenda Item No. 15**

**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:**

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Stephen Abney</b>  | <b>aye</b> |
| <b>Mary Dandurand</b> | <b>aye</b> |
| <b>Stu Rogers</b>     | <b>aye</b> |
| <b>Gus Wetzel</b>     | <b>aye</b> |
| <b>Ken Weymuth</b>    | <b>aye</b> |
| <b>John Collier</b>   | <b>aye</b> |

### **Adjournment – Agenda Item No. 13**

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 2:55 p.m.

Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 3:59 p.m. Mr. Collier stated the April Board of Governors meeting will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026. **Dr. Wetzel made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**University of Central Missouri  
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Attachments Listing**

| <u>Attachment No.</u> | <u>Attachment Description</u>                                                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                     | Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions                                           |
| 2                     | Minor Name Change – Earth Science Department                                        |
| 3                     | Name Change – Marketing, Public Relations, and Sport Management                     |
| 4                     | Department Name Change – Communication and Digital Media<br>Production              |
| 5                     | Ellucian Solutions and Services Contract                                            |
| 6                     | Todd Residence Hall – Electrical Switchgear Replacement Change<br>Order             |
| 7                     | Correction: East and North Ellis Residence Hall Roof Replacement                    |
| 8                     | Marching Mules Building Construction                                                |
| 9                     | Artificial Turf Ground Preparation Construction Services                            |
| 10                    | Artificial Turf for Jennies Soccer Field, Jennies Softball Field, and<br>East Field |
| 11                    | Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center Wood Flooring Replacement                          |
| 12                    | Walton Stadium Video Board Replacement                                              |
| 13                    | Spring 2026 Enrollment Census Report                                                |
| 14                    | 2025-2026 President’s Delegated Authority Program Actions                           |
| 15                    | Promotions and Tenure                                                               |
| 16                    | Written Governance Groups Reports                                                   |
| 17                    | Legislative Update                                                                  |
| 18                    | Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity Annual Report                   |
| 19                    | University Metrics Report                                                           |
| 20                    | AY 2027 Student Instructional Tuition and General Fees                              |
| 21                    | AY 2026-2027 Room and Board Rates                                                   |
| 22                    | Graduation Fees for Graduate Students                                               |
| 23                    | Proposal for Additional Fiscal Year 2027 Holiday                                    |