

**University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
April 24, 2026**

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on April 24, 2026, at 1:30 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; University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer.

Call to Order - Agenda Item No. 1

Board President Collier called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present to conduct business.

Remarks by the Board President – Agenda Item No. 2

Board President Collier welcomed attendees to the April Board of Governors meeting and highlighted a few recent university accomplishments, including the first-place finish at NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge; the international performance tour by members of the UCM choirs in Greece; a number five national ranking for the cybersecurity graduate certificate program; multiple 2026 recognitions for online master's programs; a number three national ranking among large public universities as a Military Friendly School; and the Mules golf team's second place finish at MIAA Championship. Board President Collier commented that the university looks forward to celebrating the success of students at commencement next month.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best stated he liked to refer to this time of year as the season of celebrations and shared that the first reception for faculty promotion and tenure was recently held. He thanked Provost Tim Crowley and Dean Janette Klein for suggesting and organizing the event to honor the newly tenured and promoted faculty. As the end of the semester draws near, President Best shared that there have been a number of retirement receptions for long-serving faculty members, as well as performances from students, faculty, staff, and visiting artists. He also shared that the university has hosted a number of high school students on campus for a variety of events, such as Admitted Student Day, Missouri Science Olympiad State Contest, and Central District FFA Contest. President Best stated he also looks forward to celebrating with everyone at Commencement in just a few days.

Introductions and Recognitions - Agenda Item No. 4

- **Byler Distinguished Faculty Award Recipient** – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Tim Crowley introduced the 2026 Byler Distinguished Faculty Award Recipient, Dr. Joyce Chang, Professor in Human Development and Family Science, and a video representing the many reasons she was selected for the award was shown. Board President Collier and President Best presented Dr. Chang with a plaque and had a photograph taken with her.

- **Governor's Excellence in Education Award** – Note: the recognition was not presented, as the recipient (Dr. Hillary Pennell) was unable to attend.
- **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 2026 recipients and provided an overview of their university involvement: Hadley Oden, a Criminal Justice and Criminology major from Hermann, Missouri, and Piper Foreman, a Psychology major from Harrisonville, Missouri. Photographs were taken of Ms. Oden and Ms. Foreman with Board President Collier and President Best. Both recipients will speak at their respective colleges' undergraduate commencement ceremonies in May.
- **Education for Service Award Recipients** – Introductions were made of three individuals receiving the Education for Service Award. Student recipient Emma Rice was introduced by Dr. Bax; faculty recipient Dr. Adam Runyan was introduced by Dr. Steve Price, Faculty Senate President; and staff recipient Ms. Keri Busker was introduced by Ms. Rae Clements, Staff Council President. Each recipient was presented with a plaque and had their photograph taken with Board President Collier and President Best.

Emeritus Status Request and Recognition – Agenda Item No. 5

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. Joni Porter (April 16, 2010 – April 30, 2026), Employer and Events Coordinator, Career and Life Design

Governor Dandurand moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Ms. Joni Porter. Governor Rogers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

A certificate will be mailed to Ms. Porter, who was unable to attend the meeting.

PLENARY SESSION

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 6

Board President Collier asked for a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Action Items

- March 26, 2026, Work and Plenary Session minutes;
- Two requirements for university graduation and faculty development: (1) a condition of graduation for all first-time in college (FTIC) students to complete a 1-credit-hour first-year seminar course that includes all learning outcomes found in UNIV 1400 University Foundations, effective with the Fall 2026 semester, and (2) a faculty development requirement for all UCM faculty and staff assigned to teach first-year seminars and

general education courses to complete a specified professional development activity for teaching FTIC students, developed by the Vice Provost for Academics Programs, effective with the Fall 2027 semester. Newly assigned faculty to first-year seminars and general education courses offered after Fall 2027 will be expected to also complete a specified professional development activity (Attachment 2);

- Internal Audit Plan for FY 2027 (Attachment 3);
- Purchase of the STEM mobile learning vehicle from Farber Specialty Vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$550,000, funded entirely through the FY 2024 MoExcels Workforce Development Grant from the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, with additional funds, if needed, to be provided by the College of Health, Science, and Technology (Attachment 4);
- Award of a 10-year contract to PepsiCo Beverage Sales LLC to provide all labor, materials, and provisions necessary for Vending and Beverage Pouring Rights on campus, effective July 1, 2026 (Attachment 5); and
- Amendment to the previous approval on the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center Wood Flooring Replacement project to award a contract to Missouri Floor Company in the amount not to exceed \$726,960 to provide all labor, materials, installation, and all other items necessary to install and complete the new floor (Attachment 6).

Governor Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the action items listed under the Consent Agenda. Governor Wetzel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Board President Collier noted the following information items listed on the Consent Agenda:

Information Items

- FY 2026 Third Quarter Investment Report (Attachment 7) and
- FY 2026 Third Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenses (Attachment 8).

REPORTS/UPDATES

Verbal Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 7

- **Faculty Senate** - Dr. Stephen Price, Faculty Senate President, expressed appreciation for the leadership of President Best and Provost Crowley, commenting that the university remains a great place to work. Dr. Price highlighted the following faculty concerns, noting they are mostly driven by external factors: fatigue and increased workloads caused by federal Title II compliance guidelines; uncertain future resulting from lower university funding support by the Missouri legislature and the national trend that devalues a college degree; changes in higher education across the country, including artificial intelligence, that is leading programs to reimagine their worth and how they train the new workforce; and enrollment pressures on faculty.

- **Staff Council** - Ms. Rae Clements, Staff Council President, reported that the Staff Council discussed two recommendations in January related to staff compensation and the university's educational development benefit. The educational development recommendation was passed; however, the staff compensation recommendation was tabled and withdrawn following President Best's campus update on the FY 2027 budget. Although it was withdrawn, Ms. Clements communicated to President Best that the Staff Council wanted to ensure that staff compensation remains a priority consideration in budget decisions. Ms. Clements provided an overview of the spring semester staff professional development sessions hosted by the Professional Development Committee and of guest speakers at the Staff Council meetings, including Ms. Holly Weiss, President Best, and Mr. David Pearce. Ms. Clements also highlighted the success of the recent "Pastries with the President" sessions. She noted the Staff Council will host the Staff Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday, May 14, to recognize service milestones and honor two major staff award recipients who will be introduced to the Board in June. Ms. Clements expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Staff Council President for the past two years and thanked the Board for its continued support of shared governance at UCM.
- **Student Government Association (SGA)** - Ms. Calena Malicoat, SGA President, reported that SGA accomplished a lot throughout the semester, noting the completion of several initiatives to improve campus life, such as the opening of the WCRL on the lower level of Houts-Hosey. She highlighted two key resolutions recently passed by the Inclusivity Committee during the SGA general meetings: Resolution 2026-04, which addresses staff retention, birthplace equity, and the importance of representation; and Resolution 2026-07, which supports queer and transgender students and affirms SGA's firm stance with the LGBTQ+ community. Ms. Malicoat read a statement from a group of concerned students regarding the cancellation of a library-hosted drag trivia event on April 16, 2026. The statement requested administrative transparency, funding support for the new Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS) Closet Collective, and the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Smith as a full-time staff member, in addition to her teaching duties, to support the Closet Collective. Ms. Malicoat thanked the members for their time and expressed that it has been an honor to serve and represent the student body.

President Best thanked each of the governance group presidents for their service and leadership.

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 8

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, presented the legislative report (Attachment 9), noting that the Missouri budget is due by May 8, 2026, as the legislative session enters its final three weeks. At the March Board of Governors meeting, he reported that the Missouri House had just narrowly passed an alternative funding model based solely on full-time equivalent counts, which would have reduced UCM's budget by \$8.1 million. President Best and Mr. Pearce visited with members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and asked them to revert to Governor Kehoe's original recommendation. The

Senate voted 22 to 9 to sustain the Governor's recommendation for level funding, which is approximately \$67 million for UCM. The budget will now go to the Conference Committee, consisting of five House and five Senate members yet to be named, to resolve the differences. Mr. Pearce highlighted policy issues related to higher education, noting that House Bill 2896, which would expand the number of governing board members in counties where a public institution is located, is the only standalone higher education bill expected to potentially pass. For UCM, it would increase the allowable Board representation from Johnson County from two to three members.

Mr. Pearce concluded by highlighting recent Capitol visits by UCM students and faculty, various on-campus civic and economic development events, and upcoming highlights, including a June campus visit from U.S. Senator Josh Hawley's field representative and the Humphreys Building rededication ceremony featuring former Governor Mike Parson as the keynote speaker.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 9

President Best stated that he appreciated the collegiality expressed during the recent "Pastries with the President" events, which were attended by approximately 400 faculty and staff members and offered an opportunity to discuss several topics, including budget plans, student persistence, and retention. He thanked the Board for their support and approval of the recommendation to change the graduation requirements to help the university continue building student engagement and find ways to help students connect with each other and with the university. While a data-driven approach is used to inform decisions, President Best shared a story from a personal interaction with a freshman student whose early struggles with isolation and subsequent turnaround after finding a peer support group underscored the vital importance of student connectivity.

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 and received an update on the Dreams Unite capital campaign.

BOARD COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Gus Wetzel, Chair of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, provided a report from the committee meeting held earlier in the day that included a discussion of student retention initiatives and a new graduation requirement for first-year students, which was approved on the consent agenda.

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 covered a wide variety of agenda items. He invited Dr. Cory Wicker, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Operations, to present the

following agenda items. It was noted that Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, was sick and unable to attend the meeting.

Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget – Agenda Item No. 10

Dr. Wicker presented the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Operating Budget (Attachment 10) to the Board for approval contingent upon the final budget reconciliation in June 2026, which was discussed during the Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole meeting.

Governor Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the FY 2027 Operating Budget, contingent upon the final budget reconciliation in June 2026. The motion was seconded by Governor Weymuth and carried unanimously.

AY 2026-2027 Transnational Education Program Pricing – Agenda Item No. 11

Dr. Wicker was joined by Provost Tim Crowley to present the Academic Year (AY) Transnational Education Program pricing, found on Tab 14 of the meeting materials (Attachment 11). **Governor Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the AY 2026-2027 Transnational Education Program Pricing as shown in the chart below, effective July 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Governor Weymuth and carried unanimously.**

AY 2026-2027 Transnational Education Program Pricing

Country	Minimum Annual Price per Undergraduate Student – UCM Revenue Share	Minimum Annual Price per Graduate Student – UCM Revenue Share
People’s Republic of China	10,000 RMB	15,000 RMB
Cambodia	3,600,000 Riel	5,400,000 Riel
Malaysia	3,600 Ringgit	5,400 Ringgit
Vietnam	25,000,000 VND	37,500,000 VND
Tunisia	2,700 Dinar	4,050 Dinar

Continued Approval for FAA Regarding Construction and Right of Way for Navigation, Communication, and Weather Aid Facilities at Skyhaven Airport – Agenda Item No. 12

Provost Crowley and Dr. Doug Davenport, Dean of the Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies, referred the Board to Tab 15 of the meeting materials recommending

the approval of a new 20-year memorandum of agreement (Attachment 12) with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide limited land rights to the FAA for future installation of navigational, communication, and weather aid facilities at Skyhaven Airport (RCM).

Governor Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the new 20-year memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The motion was seconded by Governor Dandurand and carried unanimously.

BOARD BUSINESS

University Mission, Vision, and Values Revision - Agenda Item No. 13

President Best and Dr. Ann McCoy, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Chair of the Strategic Plan Council, presented the proposed university mission and revisions to the university's vision and values as found under Tab 16 of the meeting materials (Attachment 13). President Best stated that, per the Board of Governors bylaws, the Board is required to approve the university's mission. The Board is being asked to endorse the revisions to the vision and values. **Governor Wetzel moved that the Board of Governors approve the proposed university mission and endorse the revised vision and values statement, effective July 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Governor Abney and carried unanimously.**

Appointment of the Nominating Committee – Agenda Item No. 14

Mr. Collier announced the appointment of Governor Dandurand and Governor Wetzel to serve as the Nominating Committee for the FY 2027 Board Officers. A recommendation will be presented at the June Board meeting.

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 15

There was no other business.

Request for Closed Session – April 24, 2026 – Agenda Item No. 16

Governor 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 Governor Rogers and carried with the following roll call vote:

Stephen Abney	aye
Mary Dandurand	aye
Stu Rogers	aye
Gus Wetzel	aye
Ken Weymuth	aye
John Collier	aye

Adjournment – Agenda Item No. 17

The Board concluded Plenary Session at 2:39 p.m.

Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 3:48 p.m. **Governor Dandurand made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Governor Weymuth and carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

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Attachments Listing

Attachment No.	Attachment Description
1	Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions
2	University Graduation and Faculty Development Requirement
3	Internal Audit Plan for FY 2027
4	STEM Mobile Learning Vehicle Purchase
5	Vending and Beverage Pouring Rights Contract
6	Correction: Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center Wood Flooring Replacement
7	FY 2026 Third Quarter Investment Report
8	FY 2026 Third Quarter Statement of Revenues and Expenses
9	Legislative Update
10	Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget
11	AY 2026-2027 Transnational Education Program Pricing
12	Continued Approval for FAA Regarding Construction and Right of Way for Navigation, Communication, and Weather Aid Facilities at Skyhaven Airport
13	University Mission, Vision, and Values Revision