

**University of Central Missouri  
Board of Governors  
Special Plenary Session  
May 27, 2026**

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in a Special Plenary Session on May 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. via teleconference. The meeting originated from the Administration Building, Room 204, on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Board President John Collier presided over the meeting via teleconference. Governors Stephen Abney, Mary Dandurand, Stu Rogers, Gus Wetzel II, and Ken Weymuth participated in the meeting via teleconference. In attendance in the Administration Building, Room 204, were University President Roger Best; General Counsel Lindsay Chapman; Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer; and staff members Mr. Paul Day, Mr. Scott Faubion, and Mr. Alex Greenwood.

**Call to Order – Agenda Item No. 1**

Mr. Collier called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Plummer to call the roll. It was determined that a quorum was present to conduct business.

**Annual Bonds Compliance Checklist – Agenda Item No. 2**

President Best reviewed the annual bonds compliance checklist in Tab 1 of the meeting materials (Attachment 1), noting there were no concerns to report. There were no questions from the Board.

**Artificial Turf Ground Preparation Construction Services Change Order East Practice Field – Agenda Item No. 3**

President Best presented the change order, found on Tab 2 of the meeting materials, which would increase the contract with Mid-America Sports Construction for the artificial turf ground preparation project by \$99,941 to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permit fees, and all other items necessary to prepare the East Practice Field site for the installation of artificial turf (Attachment 2). While the contractor was working at the East Practice Field, they discovered there was no stability associated with the dirt on the hill after removing the old turf. The contractor and UCM Facilities Planning and Operations (FPO) recommend installing stabilizers to ensure long-term stability. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Day, Interim Director of Design and Construction for FPO, explained the process of installing the stabilizer, which will be as permanent a fix as possible to address the issue.

In response to Board concerns about project oversight and additional costs, President Best and Mr. Day outlined recent improvements to the UCM project management team aimed at alleviating these issues. President Best also stated that he approves exceptions to the current 65-day hiring delay process and that the project management and procurement vacancies were filled quickly to support the university's best interests.

Governor Rogers asked for an update on the ground preparation for the Jennies Soccer field and the Jennies Softball field's outfield, which were included in the same contract. Mr. Day reported that both are progressing well. President Best stated that he had approved one

project change order for approximately \$16,000 to cover additional dirt removal from the soccer field. He also informed the Board that new shelters for the soccer team benches will likely be added to the Jennies Soccer field turf installation contract, per the university's request, as the old shelters are not in the best condition.

**Governor Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the award of the increased contract amount of \$99,941 with Mid-America Sports Construction to provide all labor, materials, equipment, supplies, insurance, permits fees, and all other items necessary to prepare the East Practice Field site for the installation of artificial turf. The motion was seconded by Governor Dandurand 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>

#### **UCM Indoor Developmental Facility at Crane Stadium – Agenda Item No. 4**

President Best presented the recommendation, found on Tab 3 of the meeting materials, to build a fully enclosed, approximately 19,000-square-foot diamond sports facility at Crane Stadium for player development, with a cost not to exceed \$6.3 million (Attachment 3). The proposed facility would be located beyond the current outfield of Crane Stadium and feature a regulation-size infield along with other resources, including private athletic training space, a showcase area, and four batting/pitching lanes to support the baseball and softball programs' needs for 20 years. President Best noted that the current facility is small and dated, but would remain intact, with the option to keep and renovate it in the future, though not as part of this project.

President Best stated the new indoor facility will be funded through a combination of private donations and university funds, with total donor commitments at \$2.5 million, including a \$2 million pledge from the primary donor and \$500,000 from secondary donors raised by athletics leadership. The university would be responsible for funding the difference between actual construction costs and donor-provided funds, approximately \$3.8 million. Should construction estimates come in higher than expected, President Best stated that the project scope will be adjusted to avoid exceeding \$6.3 million. The primary donor specified preferences for Collins | Webb Architecture (CWA) as the architect, Heron Companies as the general contractor, and Engineering Solutions and Terracon for civil design and geotechnical testing. President Best shared that the primary donors' project manager interviewed three different potential contractors for this project in the Kansas City area. Based on the project manager's expertise, the primary donor's recommendations, and the university's past experience with CWA, President Best expressed confidence in the recommended companies for this project.

Governor Dandurand asked whether there would be a space dedicated in the new facility for the softball team to store their equipment, since their locker rooms are at the South Recreation Complex. President Best stated that the architects could certainly be asked about the availability of sufficient storage space for softball.

In response to a question from Governor Abney about the project amount being higher than originally anticipated, President Best explained that he had reallocated a little over \$1 million internally from South Recreation Complex projects to this facility because the softball team will use it extensively. President Best further explained that the university's portion of this project will initially be drawn from university reserves, with the intent to replenish those reserves through an institutional bond issuance planned for resolution later this summer and execution in the fall. Ms. Chapman clarified that it is being presented to the Board as being funded from university reserves because if the bond doesn't go through, the university will still have to pay for the project. Governor Abney asked whether additional funds for this project could be raised, and President Best stated that the fundraising portion is nearly over. Governor Weymuth expressed his support for the project and his appreciation to the donors. He encouraged additional fundraising efforts for this project, should they be possible.

The Board also raised questions about the current indoor facility and the need for ongoing maintenance to ensure the building remains suitable for future use. President Best indicated a potential use for the building is a dedicated pitching lab. FPO will implement a monitoring and basic maintenance routine to address issues and preserve the building's structural integrity.

In response to Governor Abney's question, President Best provided an overview of the project timeline, noting that it is likely to be completed in April or May 2027. President Best also shared that the primary donor is providing their corporate project manager to serve as a zero-fee construction advisor on the project.

**Governor Weymuth moved that the Board of Governors approve the construction of a new player development facility at Crane Stadium using donor and university funds at a cost not to exceed \$6.3 million, with Collins | Webb Architecture as the architect of record, Haren Companies serving as the general contractor, and additional technical services provided by Engineering Solutions and Terracon. The motion was seconded by Governor 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>

#### **Other Business – Agenda Item No. 5**

Governor Abney thanked President Best for distributing the project funding documentation and requested a detailed list of current debt service, including bond maturities, additional debt

service, and how it will be cash-flowed, before the meeting at which the bond authorization will be requested. President Best agreed to provide this information in advance and thanked the Board for holding the special meeting.

**Adjournment – Agenda Item No. 6**

**Governor Abney made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Governor Dandurand 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>

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**University of Central Missouri  
Board of Governors  
Plenary Session  
May 27, 2026  
Attachments Listing**

Attachment No.	Attachment Description
1	Annual Bonds Compliance Checklist
2	Artificial Turf Ground Preparation Construction Services Change Order East Practice Field
3	UCM Indoor Developmental Facility at Crane Stadium