



## UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

October 3, 2024  
4:00-6:00 PM, AF 103

**Present:** Barry Althouse, Roman Altshuler, Lorin Basden Arnold, Scott Bastedo, Christopher Bloh, Cheryl Brattley, Kate Clair, Kaoutar El Mounadi, Marlene Fares, Robert Flattley, Lisa Frye, Mike Gabriel, Joe Harasta, Kenneth Hawkinson, Cade Herndon, Caecilia Holt, Shelby Hoppis, Julia Hovanec, Loriann Irving, Tracy Keyes, Mahfuzul Khondaker, Yoon Mi Kim, Brian Kronenthal (for Myung Song), Eric Laub, Steve Lem, Dannell MacIlwraith, Padraig McLoughlin, Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Kyra Richards, Megan Rutter, Rick Salafia, Jennifer Schlegel, Dylan Schwesinger, Kim Shively, Norm Sigmond, George Sirrakos, Jay Sunsay, Honey Svoboda, Veronique Vlaun, Todd Walker, Lisa Weckerle, Todd Williams, Gwendolyn Yoppolo

**Absent:** Colin Bolger, Joanne Cohen, Richard Courtney, Olivia Hartman, Susan Mangold, Juliet Njoroge, Shawn Riley, Marci Scheuing, Michele Sims,

**Guests:** Matt Delaney, Jacklyn Downing, Andrea Kirshman, Erin Kraal, Karen Rauch, Steve St. Onge, Gabriella Wilson

### I. Call to Order

- **Lisa Frye** called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

### II. Announcements

- **Lisa Frye** introduced the agenda and ask for a motion to approve the new agenda with the addition of the posthumous degree.
- **Mike Gabriel** and **Steve Lem** motioned to approve the new agenda.

### III. Guest Speakers

- **A. Enrollment Management Update – Steve St. Onge:**  
Steve discussed strategies for moving forward with admissions. The university has partnered with [Niche](#) to engage prospective students earlier. Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation in the October Senate Folder.

- **B. Budget Update – Matt Delaney:**

Matt provided a brief budget update, covering developments since April, including the E&G Budget and the Comprehensive Planning Process. The presentation is available in the October Senate Folder.

- **C. CEL – Erin Kraal:**

Erin discussed updates to the Center for Engaged Learning (CEL). Last year, they re-evaluated the advisory board, which has now been replaced by an advisory council consisting of 13 members. A needs assessment was completed, with 70 faculty responses shaping this year's programming. The CEL is expanding the mentor program and resources on the website.

#### **IV. Approval of the Minutes**

- The minutes from the **September 5, 2024** meeting were accepted.

#### **V. Reports**

- **A. Senate President – Lisa Frye:** No updates.

- **B. Senate Vice President – Kim Shively:**

All committee positions have been filled.

- **C. University President – Ken Hawkinson:**

Ken shared positive news regarding enrollment and retention, highlighting a 0.6% increase in total headcount, the first rise since 2012. Graduate and transfer student numbers are also up, with a retention rate of 78% for a regional university. The four-year graduation rate increased by 0.44%. The GPA for incoming students rose to 3.38. International student numbers increased to 107, and overall university diversity stands at 24%. Campus updates include significant progress on the Welcome Center, the completion of Keystone Hall plans, and planning funds for a new academic building this year. Johnson Hall is under consideration for renovation, and future plans for Bonner and University Place are in the works. Dr. Christopher M. Fiorentino will serve as Interim Chancellor after next week's retirement of the current Chancellor. A strategic planning discussion followed, emphasizing the importance of flexibility and strategic thinking over static plans.

- **D. University Provost – Lorin Basden Arnold:**

The Student Success Navigator program has assigned navigators to first-year students, with the goal of supporting them throughout their academic journey. Language changes were discussed, including updates to "concomitant requirements" and "university electives." Additional grant opportunities are available for teaching excellence, which can be found on the Provost's website.

- **E. Student Government Board – Kyra Richards:**

Elections have concluded, with one final election for the e-board scheduled for next Tuesday. There is a need for a Secretary. The board is also focusing on dining services, advisement, and safety, with a Safety Walk scheduled for November 6th.

- **F. Assessment/Middle States – Karen Rauch:**

The assessment reports were due on September 30th, with an excellent submission rate. More details are available on the Assessment website. An open session on Middle States

will be held on October 10th at 11 AM in AF 101. Information about Middle States is available on the website, and the self-study will be shared in the spring.

## **VI. Standing Committee Reports**

- **A. Undergraduate Exceptions Committee (final report; written report)**

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

- None.

## **VIII. New Business**

- **A. Posthumous Degree – Mason Kinsey:**  
Motion from the music representative, seconded by Jennifer Schlegel, passed.
- **B. Events Advisory Council Bylaws Update (CoC):**  
Motion from the Coc, passed.
- **C. International Initiatives Committee Bylaws Update (CoC):**  
Motion from the Coc, passed.

## **IX. Good of the Order**

- **Steve Lem** discussed updates related to the Exploratory Studies program. This program was not on the KU website and was not presented to prospective students. There are plans to add this program to the KU website. Please contact him with further details as he works to update the website.

## **X. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn by **Padraig McLoughlin**, seconded by **Kim Shively**.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Julia L. Hovanec**  
*University Senate Secretary*

[Link to October Senate Folder](#)